SAMUEL LATTIMORE
AND THE LATTIMORE FAMILY

WALKINGSTICK

ROSS

STARR

AKIN

WHITSETT

DONNA WHEELEHAN
2021 REVISED EDITION

Introduction

In searching for information on my Cherokee ancestry, I became more intrigued with Samuel Lattimore (my great-great-great grandfather and second husband of Akey Walkingstick). This gave me the idea for this project – to gather together all the pieces I have found; to determine what fits and makes sense, and what doesn't; and to compile everything together into one document. In doing this, I have traced the Lattimore family line back to the late 1600's in Ireland, before they made the trip to the colonies.

Much of the information on the early generations of the Lattimore family comes from the following sources: *The Lattimores: A Family History* published in 1982 by Esther Lattimore Jenkins, *Descendants of John Lattimore, Sr.* (Charles Elliot's Lattimore Family website), and the Lattimore Family Cemetery in North Carolina website, which includes an excerpt from *The Lattimore Family in Cleveland County, N.C.*, by P. Cleveland Gardner dated August 12, 1939. (Check the bibliography for the links to these web resources.) These have been extremely helpful in providing background information on the family during their years in Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina. The authors of these sources trace their Lattimore roots to different lines of our family though, which explains why some of the information on the Lattimores who went West with the Cherokees is not totally accurate. It suggests that the information may have come from family stories and not from an ancestor who actually lived in Indian Territory during those years.

There are many documents about Lt. Joseph W. Harris and the group of Cherokees he took to Indian Territory in 1834. In 2017, we visited Cadron Settlement Park near Conway, Arkansas. It was at this site that the Harris detachment stopped to wait for the water levels to rise in order to continue the journey on boats. A memorial to those who died was established at the park. Seeing the name -- "D. Ross' child" -- on the memorial and learning about the losses suffered by the Samuel Lattimore family was especially sad. The toll this trip took on my ancestors was great; it is remarkable that anyone in this group survived at all.

In recent years, as we have traveled to Oklahoma and North Carolina to visit additional sites related to my Lattimore ancestors, it became clear to me that it was time to update this document to include new photographs and findings from my research and our travels. Although I have learned much more about the Lattimore family since this document was first published in 2009, there are still many gaps in the Lattimore family story, especially in regards to what happened to Samuel and Akey (Walkingstick) Lattimore after they settled in Indian Territory. With all the efforts currently underway to digitize documents, I may find something new someday in the future. One thing is for certain though, I will continue to search.

NOTE: To help keep our lineage clear, I have highlighted the names of our direct ancestors in yellow.

Lattimore

Surname Origin

Occupational name for a Latinist, a clerk who wrote documents in Latin, from Anglo-Norman French *latinier*, *latim(m)ier*. Latin was more or less the universal language of official documents in the Middle Ages, displaced only gradually by the vernacular—in England, by Anglo-Norman French at first, and eventually by English.

Variant Spellings

Latimer, Lattamore, Latimore, Latimor, Latemor, Latymere and others.

(Since there were no well-defined rules for spelling English names until Noah Webster published his *American Spelling Book* and other dictionaries/textbooks, spelling variations for names were common.)

Family Crest

I found various versions of the Latimer Family Crest. Whether this one is the "official" one, I'm not sure. The ones I found all had the red crest with a gold cross and an ostrich-feathered helmet.

(Source: http://www.cafepress.com/familycoats.26383098)

The Lattimores
From Ireland – Indian Territory – California

John, Daniel and Samuel Lattimore

Sailed from Ireland to America in 1690 and lived in Philadelphia

Samuel Lattimore

(1802-1860)

Moved to Indian Territory, Cherokee Nation West in 1834

John Lattimore, Jr.

1715-Bef. 1761

Moved to Virginia, Abt. 1730

John Lattimore

(aka "Red Head John")

1774-1833

Moved to McMinn County, Tennessee in 1821 (The heart of Cherokee country)

The Akin Boys

California

William Peter (1922-1980)

Donald Lee (1926-2009)

David Cecil (1926-1926)

Earl Vernon (1927-2013)

Nancy Lattimore Whitsett

(1841-1887)

Sallisaw, CNW, IT
Buried in
Shiloh Cemetery

SHILOH CEMETERY

Capt. John Lattimore

(1745-1821)

Moved first to South Carolina and then to North Carolina, where he is buried on his farm.

Mary Whitsett Akin

(1876-1909)

Lived in Sallisaw, IT & then Oklahoma

Buried in Shiloh Cemetery

Alfred Nicholson Akin

(1896-1951)

Moved west to California, Alaska and Washington

SAMUEL LATTIMORE, ©2021

EARLIER GENERATIONS OF THE LATTIMORE FAMILY

Coming to America – John Lattimore, Sr. (Abt. 1685-1761)

Three brothers, John, Daniel and Samuel Lattimore, sailed from Ireland to Philadelphia around the year of 1690. John Lattimore, Sr. (Abt. 1685-1761) was the youngest of these three brothers and was probably no more than five years old at the time. Very little is known about the other two brothers, Daniel and Samuel Lattimore, and whether or not they had descendants. John and his brothers were probably Scotch-Irish, and they probably arrived in Philadelphia as "bond (indentured) servants." They may have been orphans. Bonded servants were of two categories: voluntary and involuntary. In the first category were those men and women who desired to come to the colonies but were too poor to pay the costs of transportation. Of their own accord they bound themselves to an employer for a specified time in return for transfer and maintenance. The involuntary category included orphans, vagrants, paupers, debtors, and convicts.

Around 1732, the first large group of Scotch-Irish settlers migrated to Virginia from Pennsylvania along the Great Wagon Road. By the year 1736, Virginia was flooded with Scotch-Irish Settlers. In Prince William County, Virginia, the Lattimores settled near an old Indian Trail leading south to the Carolinas. This trail was used as a major road by the settlers, and became known as "The Old Carolina Trail." They settled in the wilderness of the western Carolinas until after the Revolutionary War. Around the beginning of the nineteenth century, when more land was opening up, most of the Lattimores pushed on west. Although one branch of the family stayed in North Carolina, others went to Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana.

John Lattimore, Jr. (1715-Bef. 1761)

John's son, John Lattimore, Jr (1715-Bef. 1761*) moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia in about 1730 and married Isabel Frazier there in about 1740. They raised three sons and three daughters on a farm in Prince William County, Virginia, which was purchased from John Lattimore, Sr.

1. Francis Lattimore (1744-1817), m. Rachel Stockton, sister of Jemima Stockton, settled in Kentucky.

2. John Lattimore, b. 1745, d. March 12, 1821, m. Jemima Stockton. He was born in Virginia and later settled on Hinton's Creek in Rutherford County, North Carolina, where he raised his family, and was buried on his farm.

3. Margaret Lattimore (Abt. 1748-Aft. 1798), m. Newberry Stockton, brother of Jemima and Rachel Stockton, settled in Kentucky.

4. Sarah Lattimore (Abt. 1750-Aft. 1798), m. Robert Black, settled in Kentucky.

5. Lettie Lattimore (Abt. 1752-Bef. 1761), died when young, single.

6. Daniel Lattimore (Abt. 1754-1831), m. Ann Stockton, cousin of Jemima Stockton, settled in Indiana.

*NOTE: When John Lattimore, Sr. died in June or July 1761, five of his children contested his will. John Lattimore, Jr. was not listed as one of the children; therefore he may have predeceased his father.

John Lattimore (1745-1821)

John Lattimore married Jemima (sometimes spelled as "Jamima") Stockton in Abt. 1773. They moved from what is now York County, South Carolina, to Rutherford County, North Carolina (now Cleveland County), in 1782, and had three children:

1. John Lattimore (known as "Red Head John") was born 1774 in Camden District, South Carolina, and died on June 18, 1833, in McMinn County, Tennessee. He married Susan (or Susanna) Carpenter in Abt. 1799 in Rutherford County, North Carolina. Susan Carpenter and John Lattimore had at least eleven children.

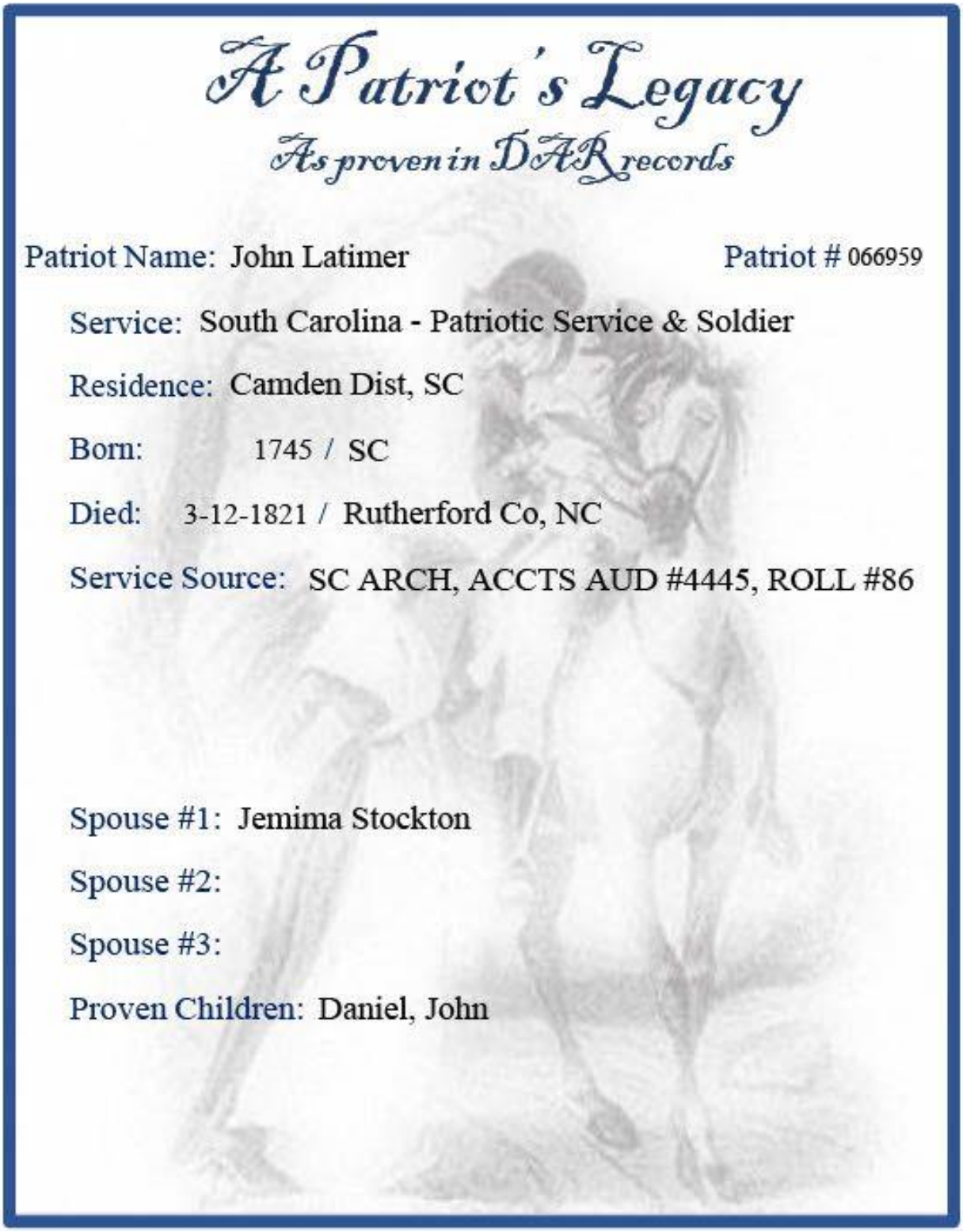
2. Daniel Lattimore (1775-1883) remained in North Carolina and was buried in the Lattimore Family Cemetery. He was married to Sarah Carpenter (sister of Susan or Susanna Carpenter) and they had nine children.

3. Rachel Lattimore (1782-1827), married Reverend John Hoyle on February 8, 1798. They also moved to Tennessee and had ten children.

John Lattimore was a Private in the South Carolina Militia during the Revolution and served in the Snow Campaign, the Cherokee War, the Briar Creek Campaign, and the relief of Charleston. (For some reason, later in his life, he became known as "Captain John.") In P. Cleveland Gardner's unpublished paper, "The Lattimore Family in Cleveland County, N.C.," dated 12 Aug 1939, he notes that "Captain John Lattimore was severely wounded in the Battle of Kings Mountain, and it is said that by reason of this wound he carried a British bullet in his leg to his grave." Since no sources were cited and the sources Charles Lattimore Elliott consulted do not substantiate this claim, this may or may not be true.

Captain John died on March 12, 1821. He was buried on the hill north of his cabin. His grave is the oldest marked grave in what is now known as the Lattimore Family Cemetery in Cleveland County, North Carolina.

JOHN LATTIMORE
DAR (DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION) RECORD



A Patriot's Legacy

As proven in DAR records

Patriot Name: John Latimer Patriot # 066959

Service: South Carolina - Patriotic Service & Soldier

Residence: Camden Dist, SC

Born: 1745 / SC

Died: 3-12-1821 / Rutherford Co, NC

Service Source: SC ARCH, ACCTS AUD #4445, ROLL #86

Spouse #1: Jemima Stockton

Spouse #2:

Spouse #3:

Proven Children: Daniel, John

Lattimore Family Cemetery

The Lattimore Family Cemetery is about two miles northwest of Polkville on Five Points Road, just North of Hinton's Creek. In September 2021, we had the opportunity to visit.

DRONE PHOTO OF LATTIMORE FAMILY CEMETERY
(Taken by Ron Wheelehan)

CAPTAIN JOHN LATTIMORE'S GRAVE
(THE OLDEST GRAVE IN THE CEMETERY)
GRANDFATHER OF SAMUEL LATTIMORE

The John Lattimore House

Near the Lattimore Family Cemetery stands the John Lattimore House, a site on the National Register of Historic Places. Captain John Lattimore owned the land where both the cemetery and house are located. He deeded the land to his son, Daniel Lattimore (1775-1833), who raised his family here. Daniel was the only member of the family who remained in North Carolina. One of Daniel's sons, again named John (1801-1877), occupied the home for approximately half a century and gave his name to the house. The house is still owned by the Lattimore family and is not open to the public.

DRONE PHOTOS BY RON WHEELEHAN

Cemetery upper left/House lower right

House from chimney side

FRONT OF JOHN LATTIMORE HOUSE
PHOTO BY UPTOWN SHELBY ASSOCIATION

Town of Lattimore, North Carolina

Located nearby is the small town of Lattimore. According to *The Historical and Architectural Resources of Cleveland County, North Carolina* by Brian Eades published in 1998, the town of Lattimore was established in 1899 and named for Audley Lattimore (1845-1931), son of John Lattimore, grandson of Daniel Lattimore, and great grandson of Captain John Lattimore. Audley served as the first mayor, the first depot agent, and operated the post office out of his home.

LATTIMORE TOWN SIGNS

TOWN HALL

LATTIMORE TRAIN DEPOT
(Drone Photo by Ron Wheelehan)

LATTIMORE RAIL CAR ON TOWN SQUARE

John Lattimore ("Red Headed John") (1774-1833)

John Lattimore married Susan (or Susanna) Carpenter, daughter of Catherine Eaker and Samuel Carpenter, in Rutherford County. The date of their marriage is unknown. Since their oldest known child was born in June 1800, they probably married in 1799. Susan's sister Sarah married John's brother Daniel, and "Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina 1779 – 1868" on Ancestry.com lists November 3, 1796, as their marriage date.

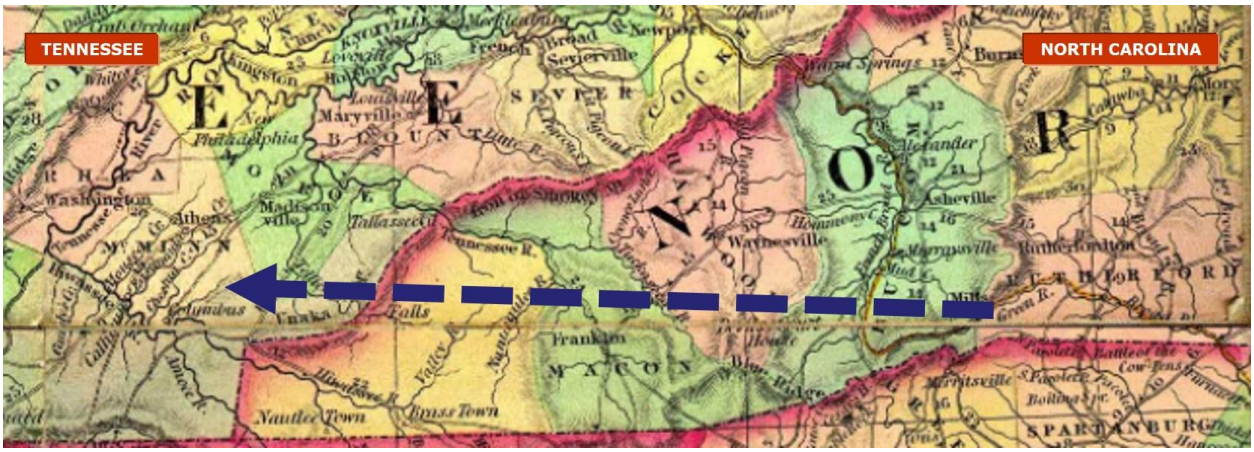
RUTHERFORD COUNTY MARRIAGES 1779-1868

Lassly, James & Margrett Nelson, 21 Aug 1779; Andrew Nelson, bm.

Lasswell, William & Salley Hoge, 12 Sept 1808; William Queen Sr., bm.

Latimore, Daniel & Sary Carpenter, 3 Nov 1796; Samuel Carpenter, bm.

After John's father died on March 12, 1821, he and his family moved to Tellico Plains, McMinn County, Tennessee, along with his mother, Jemima Stockton Lattimore; his sister, Rachel Lattimore Hoyle, and her husband, John Hoyle.



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF MCMINN & RUTHERFORD COUNTIES ABOUT 240 MILES APART

John and Susan Lattimore had at least eleven children: Francis, Jemima, Rachel, Catherine, Daniel Webster, John, Samuel, Thomas Buchanan, Sarah, Joseph, and Susan Lattimore.

John Lattimore died June 18, 1833, and Susan died July 8, 1852, both in McMinn County, Tennessee. They were originally buried in McMinn County, but in about the year 1900, their remains were moved to the Corntassel Cemetery in Monroe County, Tennessee.

John Lattimore (1774 – 1833)

Susan Carpenter Lattimore (1776-1852)

SAMUEL LATTIMORE FROM OLD CHEROKEE NATION TO INDIAN TERRITORY

Samuel Lattimore (1802-1860)

Samuel Lattimore was born June 12, 1802, in Rutherford (now Cleveland) County, North Carolina, the son of Susan (or Susanna) Carpenter and John ("Red-Headed John") Lattimore. It has been reported that he died October 15, 1860, in Cherokee Nation West, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

The *U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900* (on Ancestry.com) lists Samuel's birth year as being 1802 in the records for his marriages to Rachel and Nancy Starr. I have not been able to find a reliable record yet, such as death certificate or cemetery transcription, for his death. In fact, I have seen many conflicting dates and the conclusion I have reached is that many genealogists confuse Samuel with his son, Samuel. Based on the information I have found from many sources; this is what I have been able to piece together.

During the 1820's, members of the Lattimore family moved to the Tellico Plains area of southeast Tennessee (near the North Carolina border). This was in the heart of Cherokee Nation. During this same time, the Starr family lived in this same area. Caleb Starr was born in Pennsylvania in about 1758 to Quaker parents. After emigrating to the Carolinas, he married Nancy Harlan (granddaughter of Nancy Ward, a "Ghigua" or Beloved Woman of the Cherokee), and in so doing he became an adopted citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Caleb amassed great wealth; he owned Starr Mountain, which is some 20 miles long. He had a plantation at the base of the mountain, which was worked by more than one hundred slaves.

Caleb and Nancy had twelve children, including two daughters Rachel and Nancy Starr. Samuel Lattimore was married to both of these women at different times. He first married Rachel Starr (born Abt. 1810), who died on June 10, 1825. He then married Nancy Starr (born March 25, 1811) on December 29, 1829, as reported in *Early East Tennessee Marriages, Vol. 1: Grooms*. It is not known for sure whether there were any children born to either of these marriages.

➲ HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Inter-Marriage with Cherokee Women

Long before the arrival of European settlers, women played a major role in the family life, economy, and government of the Cherokees, who lived in villages built along the rivers of western North Carolina, northwestern South Carolina, northern Georgia, and eastern Tennessee. When white men visited these villages in the early 1700s, they were surprised by the rights and influence of Cherokee women.

Perhaps most surprising to Europeans was the Cherokee's matrilineal clan system. In a matrilineal system, a person is related only to people on his mother's side. His relatives are those who can be traced through a woman. In this way a child is related to his mother, and through her, to his brothers and sisters. He is also related to his mother's mother (grandmother), his mother's brothers (uncles), and his mother's sisters (aunts). The child is not related to the father, however. The most important male relative in a child's life is his mother's brother. Many Europeans never figured out how this kinship system worked. Those white men who married Indian women were shocked to discover that the Cherokees did not consider them to be related to their own children, and that mothers, not fathers, had control over the children. It wasn't until the 1830's that the Cherokee began to recognize a person as a Cherokee if his father was Cherokee and his mother was white.

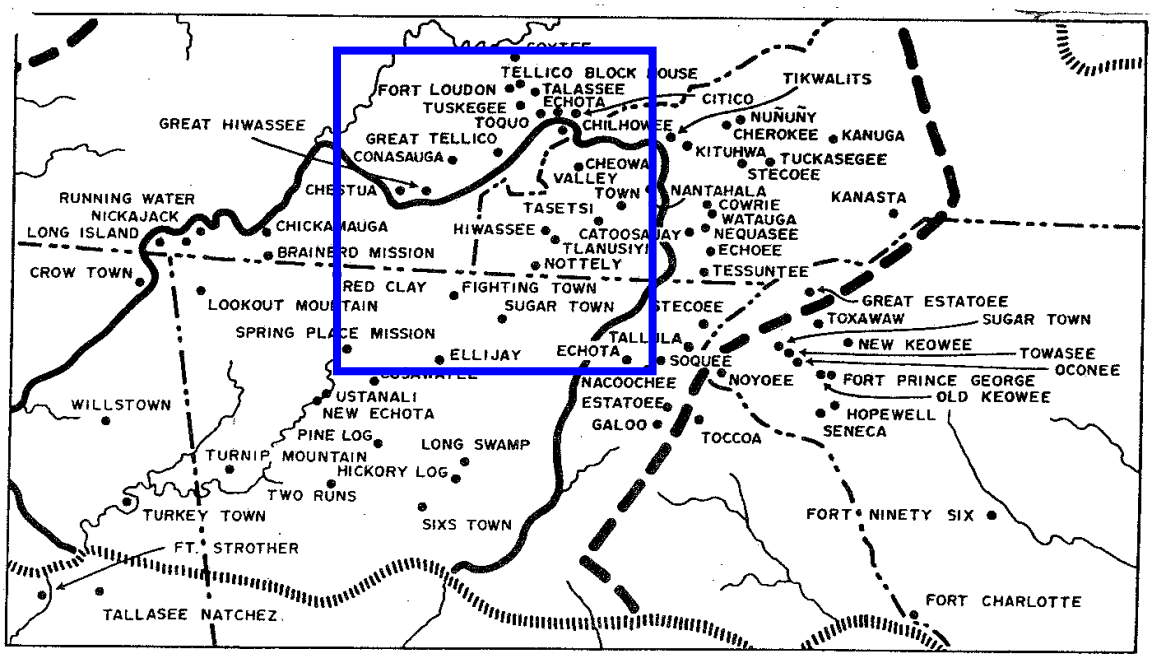
It was very common for the Scotch and the Irish to marry Cherokee women. There are several reasons for this, one of the most obvious being the political environment that many Scotch-Irish immigrants found themselves in when they arrived in Colonial America. This was actually a continuation of their situation on the British Islands. The English did not treat the Scotch or the Irish very well and many of them came into this country as indentured servants. As a result, it was understandable why so many moved into the more uninhabited areas of the country.

The second reason that intermarriage took place so frequently among these two groups of people is that they shared the clan system. Although the Scotch-Irish counted their clan affiliation from the father's side, it was still a clan system with all the elements of family and loyalty that they were accustomed to in their homeland. Cherokee women and Scotch-Irish traders or frontiersman sought each other to gain access to goods or territory and to cement alliances. In a few instances these "foreign" men would seek formal adoption into the Nation; however, more often these men held the status not of clan members, but of the husbands of clan members. In the nineteenth century, the strength of the clan system waned, and the concept of legal citizenship substituted for clan in determining legitimate membership in the Cherokee Nation. American men who married Cherokee women could then seek legal rights in the Cherokee Nation without participating in the traditional ritual of adoption.

SOURCE:
Cherokee Women: Gender and Cultural Change,1700-1835 by Theda Perdue (University of Nebraska Press, 1999)

Cherokee Nation East

Based on the Land Valuations as a result of the Treaty of 1828, James Walkingstick was living in Ellijay, Georgia. David Ross, first husband of Akey Walkingstick, owned many properties in northern Georgia and western North Carolina. Caleb Starr and his extended family (including Samuel Lattimore) lived in the Tellico Plains region of eastern Tennessee. How well each of these families knew each other is unknown; but what is known is that in late 1833 and early 1834, all of these families decided to accept the U.S. government's payment for their lands and emigrate voluntarily to the West.

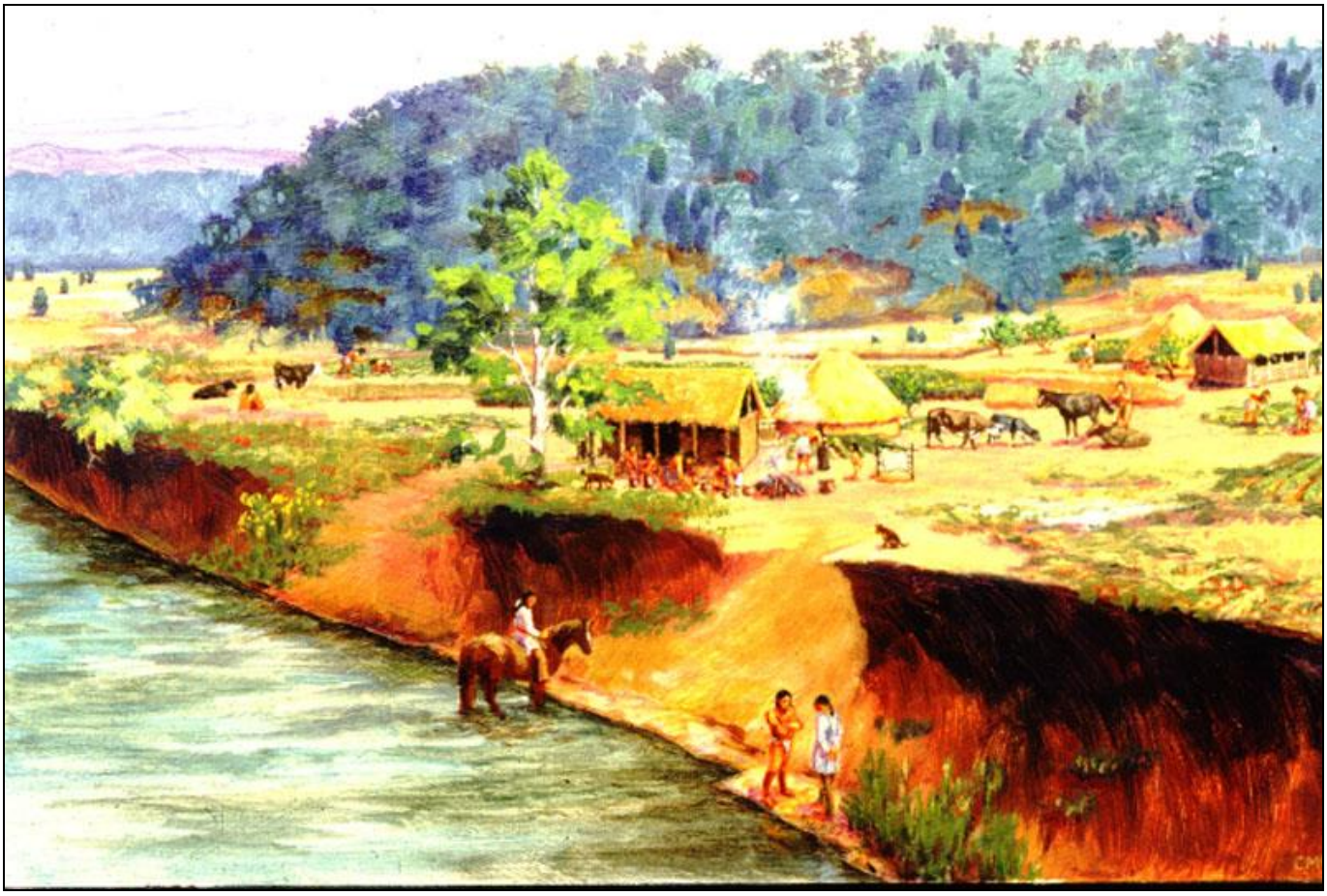


MAP OF CHEROKEE TOWNSHIPS

A large number of Cherokees, who became known as the Old Settlers, removed to Indian Territory before the forced removal known as the Trail of Tears in 1838-39. They "removed" so as to get away from the white settlers who were intruding on their homes in Cherokee Nation. Many were afraid of even leaving their homes because when they returned there would often be a white family who had moved in. The Cherokees had very little recourse in these matters, and for a large number of them, the territories west of the Mississippi looked like a promising solution.

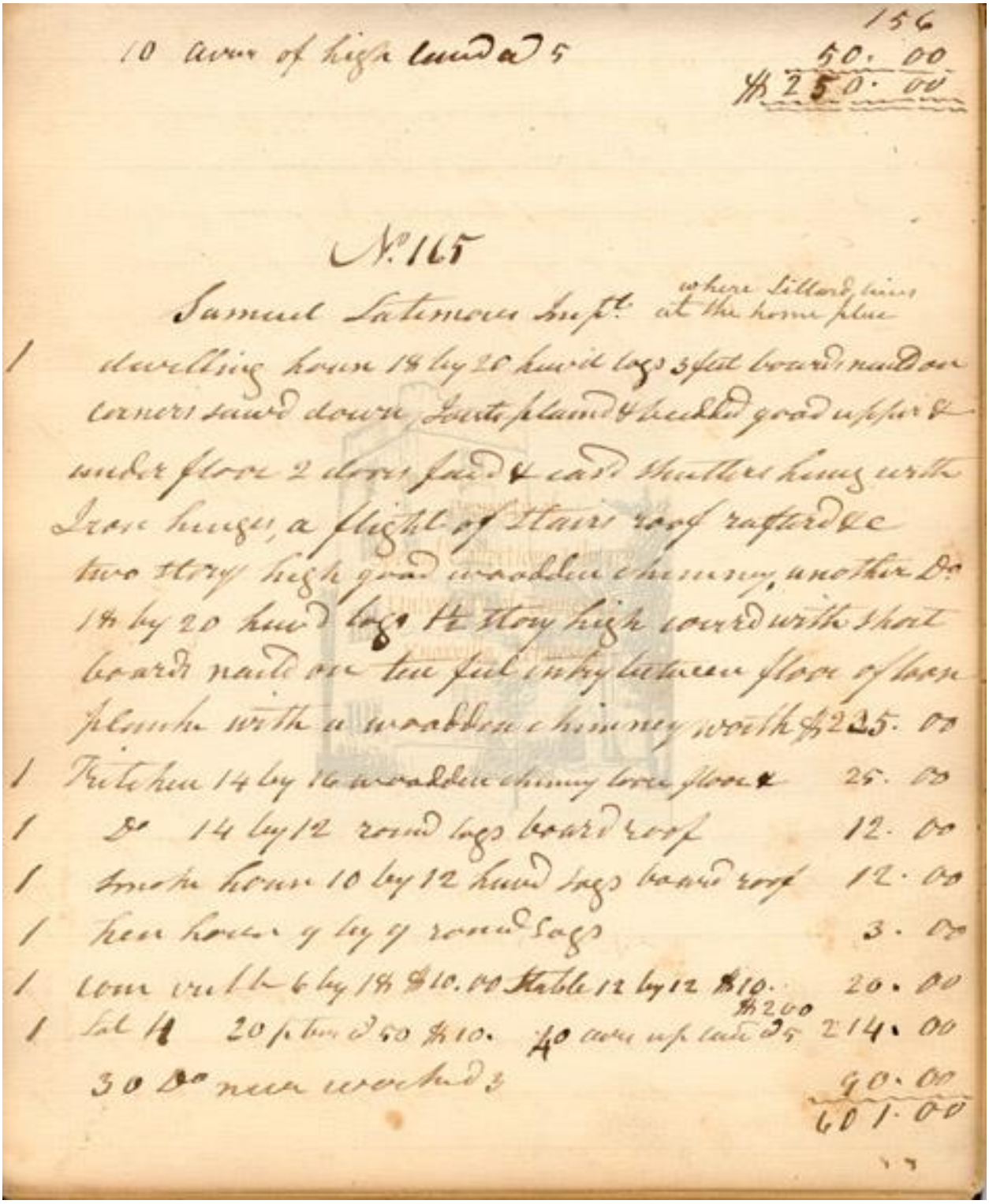
If a Cherokee family signed up for removal between 1817-1835, each head of the family was to receive from the U.S. government: a good rifle, a blanket, a kettle, 5 pounds of tobacco, and compensation for all improvements abandoned. (For example, Samuel Lattimore received $733 for the land and buildings he left behind.) Additionally, all members of the family received a blanket. Each head of household removing at least 4 persons with him received $50. The U.S. government also paid for the cost of removal and subsistence for one year afterwards.

PAINTING DEPICTING A CHEROKEE FARMSTEAD IN THE MID-18TH CENTURY



Title: Painting depicting a Cherokee farmstead in the mid-18th century
Artist: Carlyle Urello
Date Created: 1983 - 1993
Abstract: This painting is of a mid-18th century Cherokee farmstead. The painting was based on historic descriptions and archaeological excavations from the Lower Little Tennessee River Valley, conducted by the University of Tennessee 1967-1982. Excavations of Overhill Cherokee Villages were between 1967 and 1983 as part of the Tellico Archaeological Project.
Contributing Institution: Frank H. McClung Museum

LAND VALUATION CLAIM FOR SAMUEL LATTIMORE
FROM DIGITAL LIBRARY OF GEORGIA



156

10 acres of high land @ 5 — 50. 00

$250. 00

№ 165

Samuel Lattimore Sup^t. (where Lillard lives at the home place)

1 dwelling house 18 by 20 hewed logs 3 feet boards nailed on corners sawed down, Joists planed & headed good upstairs & under floors 2 doors panel & cased shutters hung with Iron hinges, a flight of stairs roof rafters &c two story high good wooden chimney, another Do 18 by 20 hewed logs 1½ story high covered with short boards nailed on two feet entry between floors of each planed with a wooden chimney worth $225. 00

1 Kitchen 14 by 16 wooden chimney loose floors — 25. 00

1 Do 14 by 12 round logs board roof — 12. 00

1 smoke house 10 by 12 hewed logs board roof — 12. 00

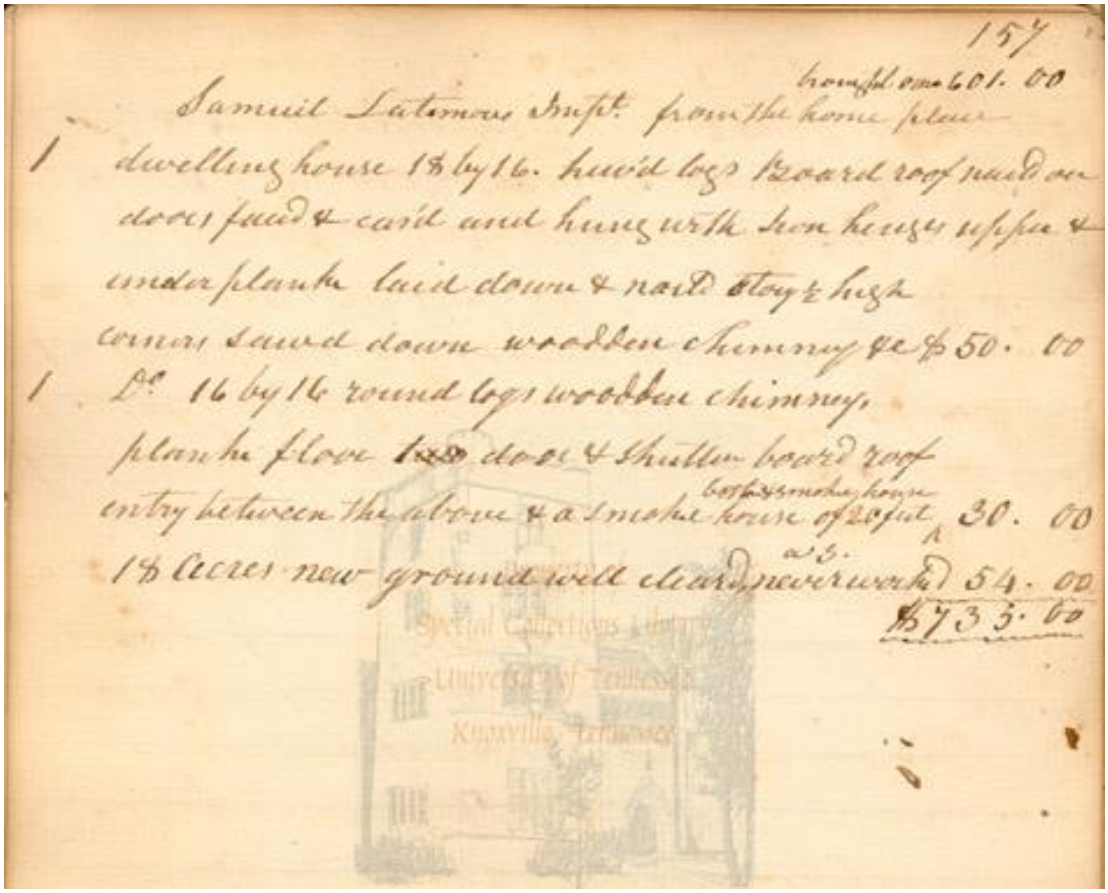
1 hen house 9 by 9 round logs — 3. 00

1 corn crib 6 by 18 $10. 00 Stable 12 by 12 $10. — 20. 00

1 Gin House 20 feet diameter $10. 40 acres in cultivation @ $5 $200 — 214. 00

30 Do new ground — 90. 00

601. 00



157

brought over 601. 00

Samuel Latimore Impt. from the home place

1 dwelling house 18 by 16. hew'd logs Board roof naild on doors faced & cas'd and hung with Iron hinges upper & under planks laid down & naild story & high corners sawed down woodden chimney &c $50. 00

1 Do 16 by 16 round logs woodden chimney, plank floor two door & shutter board roof entry between the above & a smoke both & smoke house of 20 feet 30. 00

18 Acres new ground well cleard, never worked @ 3. 54. 00

$735. 00

TRANSCRIPTION:

No. 165
Samuel Latemores Impt. [Improvement] at the home place [added text: where Lillard lives]
1 dwelling house 18 by 20 hew'd [hewed] logs 3 feet board naild [nailed] on corners sawd [sawed] down, Joists plaind [planed] & [unclear text: bedded] good upper & under floor 2 doors facd [faced] & casd [cased] shutters hung with Iron hinges, a flight of stairs roof rafterd [raftered] &c [et cetera] two story high good woodden [wooden] chimney, another Do. [Ditto] 18 by 20 hewd [hewed] logs 1 1/2 story high coverd [covered] with short boards naild [nailed] on ten feet entry between floor of loose plank with a woodden [wooden] chimney worth $235.00
1 Kitchen 14 by 16 woodden [wooden] chimney loose floor &c [et cetera] 25.00
1 Do. [Ditto] 14 by 12 round logs board roof 12.00
1 smoke house 10 by 12 hewd [hewed] logs board roof 12.00
1 hen house 9 by 9 round Logs 3.00
1 corn cribb [crib] 6 by 18 $10.00 Stable 12 by 12 $10. 20.00
1 Lot 4 20 p [peach] trees @ 50 $10. 40 acres up land @ 5 [added text: $200] 214.00
30 Do. [Ditto] never worked 3 90.00
601.00

Page: [164]157
Samuel Latimore Impt. [Improvement] from the home place [added text: brought over 601.00]
1 dwelling house 18 by 16. hew'd [hewed] logs Board roof naild [nailed] on doors faced & cas'd [cased] and hung with Iron hinges upper & under planks laid down & naild [nailed] story 1/2 high corners sawd [sawed] down woodden [wooden] chimney &c [et cetera] $50.00
1 Do. [Ditto] 16 by 16 round logs woodden [wooden] chimney, plank floor [deleted text: two] door & shutter board roof entry between the above & a smoke house of 20 feet [added text: both & smoke house] 30.00
18 acres new ground well cleard [cleared], never worked [added text: @ 3] 54.00
$735.00

➲ HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Georgia Harassment Laws – Treaty of New Echota

As the Cherokee Nation became a flourishing independent nation within Georgia's state boundaries, resentment grew among white settlers. Already eager to grab the rich agricultural lands of the Cherokee, the discovery of gold in Cherokee country in 1828 further escalated the greed for land and wealth. In addition, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act of 1830 that provided funds for removal of eastern Indians to the west beyond the Mississippi River.

The state of Georgia began enacting laws declaring all Cherokee laws void and seeking to remove the Cherokee from their lands. The Cherokees took their plight to the Supreme Court. *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* asked the Court to forbid enforcement of state law in Cherokee territory. Law and morality favored the Cherokees; Congress and the president sided with Georgia. Although the Cherokees had a right to their land, the chief justice said, the court had no authority to act because the Constitution allowed the Cherokee Nation to sue Georgia only if it were a "foreign nation." Because it was instead what he termed a "domestic, dependent nation," the court lacked jurisdiction. The crisis passed, but not for long. Lawyer William Wirt returned to the Court the following year, representing Samuel A. Worcester, a missionary to the Cherokees. Georgia had convicted Worcester and sentenced him to hard labor for his conscientious refusal to obey Georgia law within Cherokee Nation. Because Worcester was a U.S. citizen, the Court had jurisdiction over his appeal and could not escape a difficult judgment. The Cherokees had another chance.

Writing resolutely for a unanimous court, Marshall found that Georgia had acted unlawfully. The Cherokees, he said, were an independent people and a treaty-making nation. The decision was a triumph for the Cherokees and the Chief Justice. It would amount to little, however, without the President's support. According to popular story, Jackson responded: "John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it." *Worcester v. Georgia* continues to be important in American law and in Native American self-understanding because of its affirmation of tribal sovereignty, a common concern of modern Court cases. *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* has currency because of Marshall's passing comment that a tribes' relation to the United States resembles that of a ward to a guardian. Some judges and scholars find in this analogy a source for the modern legal doctrine that the United States has a trust obligation to tribes.

Unable to gain legal support from the American court system, the Cherokee were at the mercy of the state of Georgia and Jackson's removal policy. In 1835, after years of harassment and antagonism, a small group of Cherokees, led by Major Ridge, his son, John, and his nephew, Elias Boudinot, ceded by treaty all Cherokee lands. The Cherokee people were given two years to leave their traditional lands and move to a special Indian territory created by Congress in 1834 in what later became Arkansas and Oklahoma. By 1838, only 2,000 had migrated (known as the "Old Settlers"); 16,000 remained on their land. The U.S. government sent in 7,000 troops, who forced the Cherokees into stockades. They were not allowed time to gather their belongings, and as they left, whites looted their homes. Thus began the journey known as the "Trail of Tears," in which 4,000 Cherokee people died of cold, hunger, and disease on their way to the western lands.

The Trip West

On December 28, 1833, Samuel Lattimore of Hiwassee, Tennessee, received commutation allowance for transportation west for himself, wife Nancy, 2 males under 10 years of age, 1 female under 10, 1 male slave, and 2 female slaves. Although eight people had originally enrolled, only seven made the trip. One female slave did not go. The Lattimore family joined the emigration party that was led by Lt. Joseph W. Harris. The family arrived on May 16, 1834, with five people having died en route. The identities of the five are not known for sure, but since both Samuel Lattimore and Nancy Starr Lattimore are recorded as having arrived alive, it stands to reason that the three children and 2 slaves died on the trip. The family settled in Indian Territory near Fort Gibson. Nancy Starr Lattimore died on July 8, 1834, soon after the family arrived.

In the article, "The Legacy of Caleb Starr" published in the Fall 1983 issue of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the trip west by the Ezekiel Starr (Samuel Lattimore's brother-in-law) family is described as follows:

> "Despite efforts by the Cherokee light horse guard to intimidate citizens who wished to emigrate, Ezekiel and Mary Starr prepared for the journey. Their household included nine children and an equal number of slaves, a total of twenty people whose comfort while traveling had to be considered. Ezekiel's brothers-in-law, John Bean and Samuel Lattamore, were engaged in similar preparations. By December 28, 1833, Ezekiel and Samuel were ready to enroll, and on January 16, 1834, John Bean enlisted his family for the journey. Ezekiel's improvements at Hiwassee were valued at $1749.50. From this amount were deducted current debts, owed primarily to his father and to his wealthy brother-in-law, Jesse Mayfield, leaving a balance due him on arrival in the western nation of $1372.56. Traveling with a large contingent of Cherokees, Ezekiel and family arrived in the West on May 16, 1834. Their journey had been marred by the death of one of their slaves and by the disaster which struck the Lattamore family; five of the seven members of this household had died en route. John Bean's party suffered no losses."

In addition to the Ezekiel Starr family, the following families were a part of the Harris detachment: John Bean (Samuel's brother-in-law), James Walkingstick (his future brother-in-law), Ruby and Will Tucker (related to James and Akey Walkingstick), W. Templin and Eliza Ross (relative of David Ross), and David Ross (husband of Akey Walkingstick). David Ross and Akey Walkingstick, who would later marry Samuel Lattimore, lost a daughter during the journey.

Cherokees Who Voluntarily Agreed to Move West

Joseph Harris Detachment, 1833-34

Date	No.	Name	Males 10 25 un 10	un 25	un 50	ov 50	Females 10 25 un 10	un 25	un 50	ov 50	Slaves M	F	Total	Residence
Dec 28 1833	#185	Ezekiel Starr	3	2	1		3	1	1		3	6	20	Hiwassee, "
	#186	Saml. Lattimore	2		1		1		1		1	2	8	" "
Jan 19 1834	*243	David Ross	3	1	1		1		1				7	Valley River, N C
Feb 9, 1834	#331	Jas. Walkingstick	2	1	1		1		1				6	Elijay, Georgia

Key to Notations:

= accepted government commutation allowance

* = accepted government transportation only

Register of Cherokee Indians who have emigrated to the West of the Mississippi

Name	Males 10 25 un 10	un 25	un 50	ov 50	Females 10 25 un 10	un 25	un 50	ov 50	Slaves M	F	Total	Remarks
Removed in wagons and steam boats by Lt. J. W. Harris and arrived in the new country on May 16, 1834:												
Samuel Lattimore	2		1		1		1		1	1	7	Arr. May 16, 1834—5 died
Ezekiel Starr	3	2	1		3	1	1		3	6	20	Arr. May 16, 1834—Slave died 10 May 1834
David Ross	3	1	1				1				6	
James Walkingstick	2	1			1		1				5	Child died 25 Aug.

SOURCE: *Emigration Rolls* transcribed by Jack Baker (Baker Publishing, 1977).

➲HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

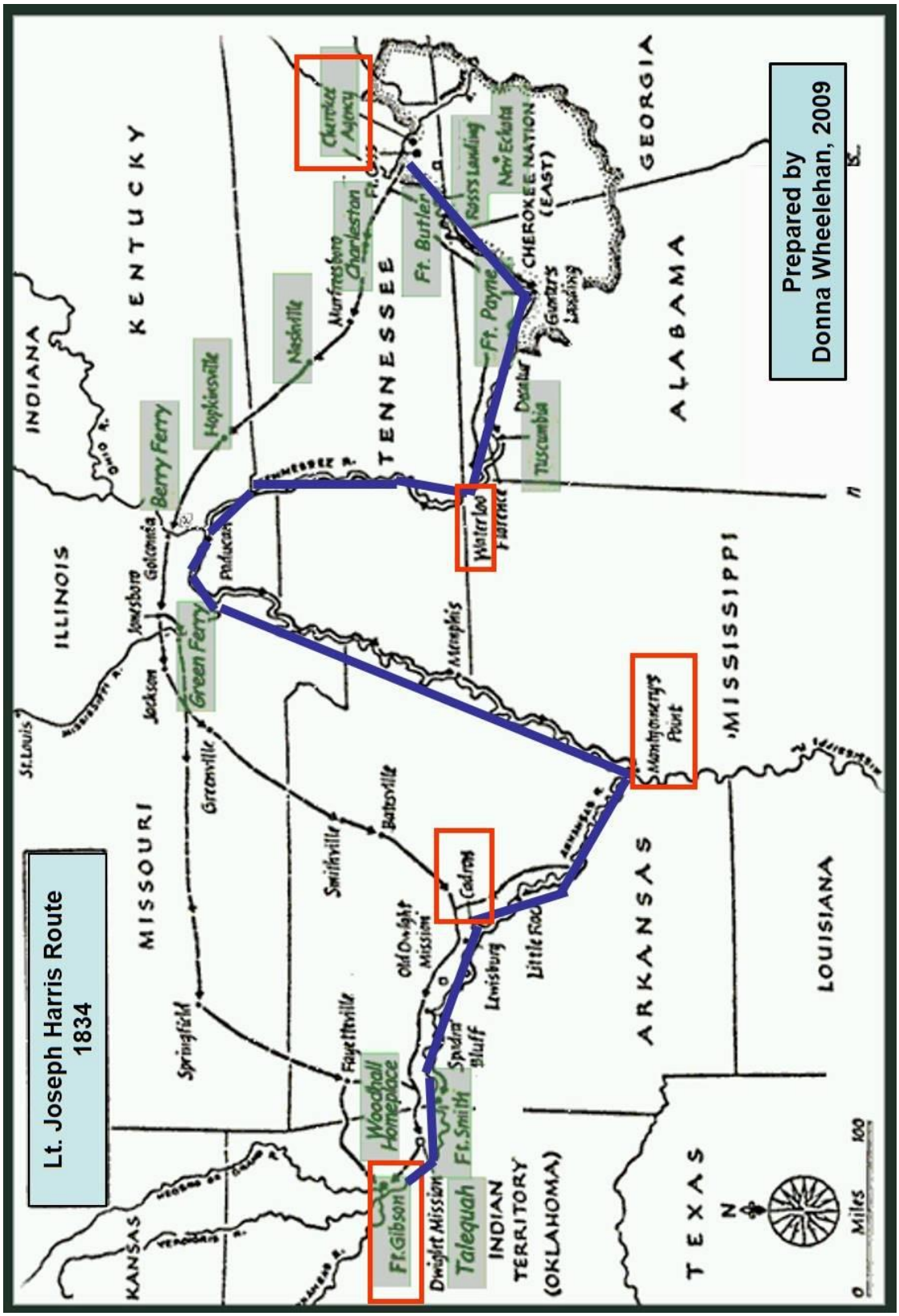
Lt. J.W. Harris Detachment, 1834

Before the party left the Cherokee Agency on the Hiwassee River on March 13, 1834, Lieutenant Joseph W. Harris of New Hampshire, a West Point graduate of the class of 1825 who was assigned to conduct the party, noted that whiskey dealers besieged the emigrants and that many suffered from measles. The Indians left the agency aboard six flatboats. When the fleet reached Waterloo, Alabama, on March 19, 1834, where the party transferred to the steamboat *Thomas Yeatman* and three keelboats in its tow, Harris had 457 Cherokees in his charge. During the trip down the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi rivers, Harris picked up another 67 Cherokees.

At Montgomery's Point at the mouth of the White River, Harris found eight or nine flatboats with the 200 emigrants who had opted to move on their own. The stranded party was disease-wracked and several of the emigrants had died. The group was low on provisions and begged Harris to conduct them the rest of the way. The steamer's ascent up the Arkansas was so slow that on April 10 Harris induced 102 of his party aboard two keelboats to go ashore at Cadron Creek, just north of present-day Conway, and to proceed overland. He paid them two dollars each for their subsistence and to purchase transportation. Harris hoped to carry the rest and one keelboat up the river but, after only an hour of travel, the steamer encountered a sandbar 26 inches below the water. The craft returned to Cadron Creek, where the party reunited. Harris decided to make camp at Cadron Creek until the water rose or he could secure wagon teams to move the Indians overland.

On April 15, a cholera outbreak struck the camp and many of the Cherokee died over the next few days. The party finally entered the new Cherokee homeland in May, after which the emigrants scattered to find places to settle. Harris reported that 81 of the people in his party died en route, 45 of whom were children under 10 years of age. According to one estimate, nearly half of the party died from complications related to the journey before the end of the year.

Today a memorial in honor of the Cherokees from the Harris Detachment is in Cadron Creek Settlement Park, north of Conway, Arkansas.

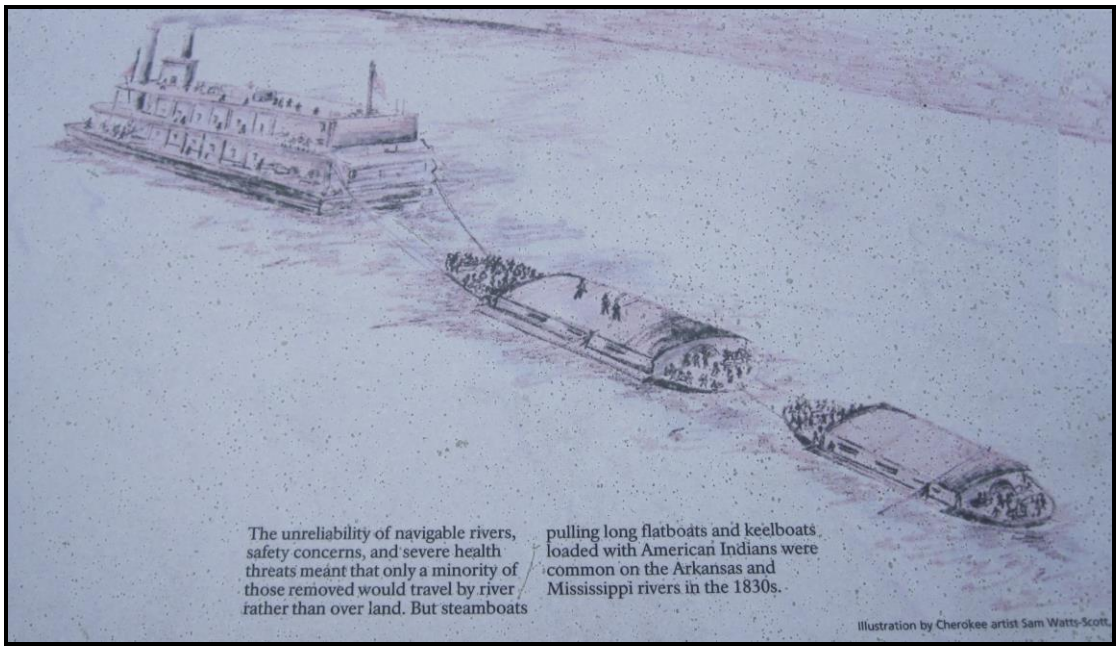

Lt. Joseph Harris Route
1834
Prepared by
Donna Wheelehan, 2009
KENTUCKY
INDIANA
ILLINOIS
MISSOURI
TENNESSEE
ARKANSAS
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA
GEORGIA
LOUISIANA
TEXAS
INDIAN TERRITORY (OKLAHOMA)
KANSAS
CHEROKEE NATION (EAST)
Berry Ferry
Green Ferry
Hopkinsville
Nashville
Murfreesboro
Charleston
Ft. Butler
Ft. Payne
Ross's Landing
New Echota
Guntersville Landing
Decatur
Tuscumbia
Waterloo
Memphis
Jackson
Jonesboro
Golconda
Paducah
St. Louis
Greenville
Batesville
Smithville
Springfield
Fayetteville
Old Dwight Mission
Cadron
Spadra Bluff
Lewisburg
Little Rock
Arkansas
Montgomery's Point
Woodhall Homeplace
Ft. Gibson
Dwight Mission
Talequah
Ft. Smith
0 Miles 100
N

CADRON SETTLEMENT PARK
(NEAR CONWAY, ARKANSAS)

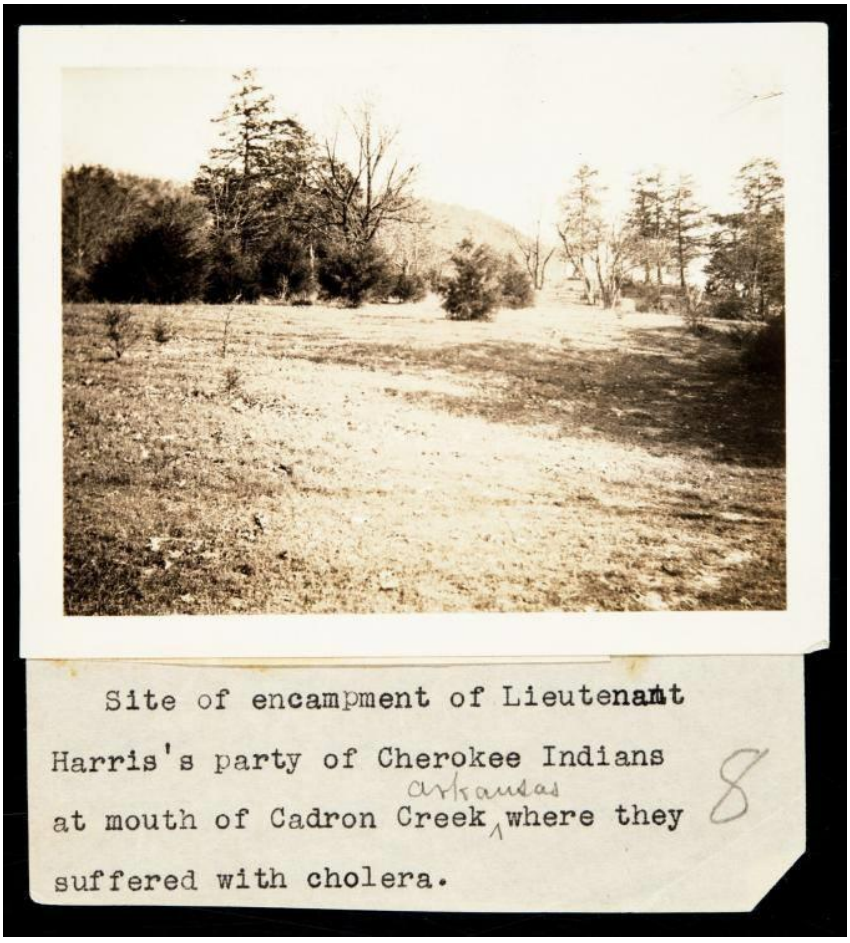
In 2017, during one of our road trips visiting National Park sites, we found ourselves near Conway, Arkansas, and decided to take a side trip to Cadron Settlement Park. To see the site where Akey (Walkingstick) & David Ross, James Walkingstick, Ruby Tucker, and others were forced to layover due to the level of the river being too shallow for further travel was sobering. This park features a memorial for those who died during the journey, including David and Akey (Walkingstick) Ross's daughter.

PHOTO CREDIT: Donna Wheelehan, 2017

Three memorial plaques are in the park (from left to right): Plaque for Joseph W. Harris, Plaque for Those Who Died, and Plaque Commemorating the Trail of Tears.


The unreliability of navigable rivers, safety concerns, and severe health threats meant that only a minority of those removed would travel by river rather than over land. But steamboats pulling long flatboats and keelboats loaded with American Indians were common on the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers in the 1830s.
Illustration by Cherokee artist Sam Watts-Scott

Artist Drawing of Steamboats Towing Flatboats by Sam Watts-Scott


Site of encampment of Lieutenant
Harris's party of Cherokee Indians
at mouth of Cadron Creek, Arkansas where they
suffered with cholera.
8

SOURCE: Walkingstick Family Heritage Facebook Group

CHEROKEE MEMORIAL
FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS WHO DIED AND WERE BURIED AT CADRON. THEY PERISHED FROM CHOLERA WHILE BEING RELOCATED BY THE ARMY IN 1834. MANY GRAVES ARE MARKED WITH NATIVE STONES WITH NO INSCRIPTIONS. SOME OF THE INDIANS HAD ADOPTED CHRISTIANITY AND CUSTOMS OF WHITES. SOME HAD ASSUMED ANGLO-SAXON NAMES. BEFORE 1850 IT WAS COMMON FOR CHEROKEE CHILDREN TO BE UNNAMED UNTIL AFTER THEIR SEVENTH BIRTHDAY, HENCE THE LACK OF GIVEN NAMES FOR THE CHILDREN.
___BIRD
___BIRD'S WIFE
___BREWER'S CHILD
___BUTLER
SARAH CH___K
THOMAS M. DANIEL'S CHILD
JOSEPH DOBSON'S CHILD
WILLIAM ENGLAND
MRS. WILLIAM ENGLAND
BLACK FOXES' WIFE
BLACK FOXES' FIVE CHILDREN
___HENSON'S CHILD
L. HOLLOWAY
___HORSEFLY'S CHILD
CHARLEY McDANIEL
CHARLEY McDANIEL'S WIFE
DANIEL McDONALD'S CHILD
ARCH McGREGG
___MILLER'S CHILD
___MORGAN
___MORGAN'S CHILD
ALEX. M'TOY
ALEX. M'TOY'S CHILD
THIGH NAVE
J. PECKERWOOD
___RICHARDSON'S WIFE
___RICHARDSON'S CHILD
DR. JESSE ROBERTS
D. ROSS' CHILD
SPENCER SHELTON'S CHILD
ROBIN SHELTON'S WIFE
ROBIN SHELTON'S CHILD
JACKSON SMITH'S CHILD
MARIAH SPANIARD'S CHILD
POLLY SPANIARD'S CHILD
BEAR TRACK'S CHILD
WILL TUCKER'S CHILD
WILLIAM VANN
WILLIAM VANN'S THREE CHILDREN
___WATER'S CHILD
T. WILSON'S CHILD
WILLIAM WILSON'S CHILD
JOHN WOODWARD'S CHILD
AILEE___
THERE WERE AN ADDITIONAL 36 DEATHS UNIDENTIFIED.
ERECTED BY CONWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FAULKNER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
OCTOBER 1989

PLAQUE FOR THOSE WHO DIED DURING THE JOURNEY WEST
PHOTO CREDIT: Donna Wheelehan, 2017

"Following is a partial list of persons who died and were buried at Cadron. They perished from cholera while being relocated by the army in 1834. Graves were marked with native stones with no inscriptions. Some of the Indians had adopted Christianity and customs of whites. Some had assumed Anglo - Saxon names. Before 1850 it was common for Cherokee children to be unnamed until after their seventh birthday, hence the lack of given names for the children."

INSCRIPTION:

___Bird
___Bird's Wife
___Brewer's Child
___Butler
Sarah Ch___k
Thomas M. Daniel's Child
Joseph Dobson's Child
William England
Mrs. William England
Black Foxes' Wife
Black Foxes Five Children
___Henson's Child
L. Holloway
___Horsefly's Child
Charley McDaniel
Charley McDaniel's Wife
Daniel McDonald's Child
Arch McGregs
___Miller's Child
___Morgan
___Morgan's Child
Alex M'Toy
Alex M'Toy's Child
Thigh Nave
J. Peckerwood
___Richardson's Wife
___Richardson's Child
Dr. Jesse Roberts
D. Ross' Child
Spencer Shelton's Child
Robin Shelton's Wife
Robin Shelton's Child
Jackson Smith's Child
Mariah Spaniard's Child
Polly Spaniard's Child
Bear Track's Child
Will Tucker's Child
William Vann
William Vann's Three Children
___Water's Child
T. Wilson's Child
William Wilson's Child
John Woodward's Child
Ailee ___

There were an additional 36 deaths unidentified.

LT. JOSEPH W. HARRIS, U.S.A.
ERECTED BY CONWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FAULKNER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
OCTOBER, 1969

PLAQUE FOR LT. JOSEPH W. HARRIS

INSCRIPTION:

Joseph W. Harris of New Hampshire, received appointment to the military academy at West Point at the age of 17 and graduated in 1825. He was assigned to accompany a group of 750 Cherokees aboard the steamboat Yeatman. They were forced to land at Cadron, April 8, 1834, because of low water.

The Indians were stricken with cholera. Lt. Harris also became ill. He retired from the army because of his poor health and died May 18, 1837, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire at age 32.

ARKANSAS RIVER AT CADRON SETTLEMENT PARK
PHOTO CREDIT: Donna Wheelehan, 2017

David Ross
Akey Walkingstick's First Husband

Before and during the journey west in 1834, David Ross was married to Akey Walkingstick (my great-great-great grandmother). On the 1834 Emigration Rolls, the family is listed as being comprised of: 3 males under 10 (Daniel, John, Alexander); 1 male under 25 (Thomas); 1 male under 50 (David Ross); 1 female under 10 (the daughter who died); 1 female under 50 (Akey Walkingstick Ross). Total of 6 people. Matilda Ross was born after the family arrived in Indian Territory. This makes it clear that David Ross made the trip west.

What is unknown though is whether David Ross remained west or if he ended up going back east at some point. Since their daughter Matilda was born sometime between 1835 and 1840 (her age in records varies), David Ross must have spent at least a few years in Indian Territory. In her Eastern Cherokee Application, Elizabeth Berry (nee Ross and David Ross's granddaughter) stated that David Ross was dead by 1851.

When David Ross lived in the Cherokee Nation East, he accumulated quite a few properties. It was somewhat common for intermarried whites to act as a go-between for the Cherokees with the U.S. government. From the two accounts that follow, found in the University of Tennessee's and the University of Georgia's archives, it appears that David Ross was involved in the use of force, along with Major Benjamin Currey, to coerce Cherokees to sign over their land and move west. What is puzzling and sad though is that in David Ross's case it's difficult to know whether he was amassing land on behalf of his Cherokee family or whether it was for his own personal gain. At any rate, by 1834 he made the decision to leave his properties and go west to Indian Territory. During the journey both he and Akey became very ill. Lt. Harris wrote in his journal, "David Ross is in a collapsed state." On the next day, he wrote, "David Ross and wife have been snatched from the jaws of death and are doing bravely."

Whether David Ross went back East to North Carolina or even back to Philadelphia, where his family originated, or if he died in the West will probably never be known for certain.

➲HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Major Benjamin F. Currey

In 1831, Andrew Jackson appointed Benjamin F. Currey as the chief enrolling agent for Georgia. Currey used every scheme available and tried to make "the situation of the Indians so miserable as to drive them into a treaty, or an abandonment of their country" -- from employing Cherokee recruiters to outright bribery -- to encourage Cherokees to remove in the spring of 1832. The Indians feared whippings promised by their chiefs if they enrolled; they also distrusted many of Currey's assistants, whom were Georgians. While Principal Chief John Ross pleaded with Andrew Jackson in Washington and Georgia lottery winners snatched Cherokee farmsteads, Currey, the Cherokee agent, continued to employ any means necessary to enroll Cherokees for emigration. By the winter of 1834 he had more than 1,000 Indians on his roster and he noted that another 200 chose to remove at their own expense.

LETTERS REFERENCING DAVID ROSS

Note: Although both of these accounts are dated after David Ross had left to go west, they most likely were records of events that had occurred earlier.

From the University of Georgia

[Letter], 1834 Apr. 3, Aquohee Dist[rict], Cherokee Nation to the gentlemen of the [Cherokee ?] Delegation / Sam[ue]l Dick

Summary: Letter dated April 3, 1834 from Samuel Dick to the Cherokee Delegation asking them to assist him with a property dispute. Dick claims that he was turned off the land to which he has the rightful title by **David Ross** and Thomas Berry. He has submitted his case to the Enrolling Agent, Major Benjamin F. Currey and also to Colonel Montgomery, but has received no satisfaction.

Aquohee Dist. [District] Cherokee Nation April 3rd. 1834

To the Gentlemen of The Delegation Messrs. [Messieurs] Ross. Taylor McCoy, Timson & Hair Conard

Gentlemen.
I beg leave respectfully to represent to you. The injustice and abuse I have suffered of late through operation and under the authority or pretended authority of the Enroling [Enrolling] Agent Major Curry together with the pretence of the operation of the laws of Georgia. I have made application for redress to Major Curry but could get no attention nor satisfaction whatever. I [deleted: hope you will take [illegible]] have also applied to Col. Montgomery but he says he has nothing to do in the matter and refferred [referred] all such business to the Enrolling Agent. I hope you will represent my case to the proper department of Government as I am now turned out of house & field old Lame & helpless having no place to live at.

The following is a statement of the case. My field which I have occupied about fourteen years without dispute or molestation is situated on the Unicoy Road about a mile within the Georgia Charter line.

The field was enrolled by **David Ross** under pretence that he had purchased it from Thos. [Thomas] Berry, a white man having no right in the nation and that Berry had bot. [bought] it of my son Thompson. But Thompson denys [denies] even making any such sale to Berry. And if he had done so that ought not to alienate the field from me as he has no title whatever to it. I will forward with this some certificates which I hope will be attended to by the Government.

I am your obt. Sert. [obedient Servant]
[Signed] Saml Dick his X mark
Test
[Signed] J.D. Wofford

From the University of Tennessee

Certificates concerning the enrollment of Charles Jones and Edward Welch

Summary: This document, dated April 9, 1834, recounts statements regarding the alleged false enrollment of Charles Jones and Edward Welch into the Cherokee Nation by the United States agent to the Cherokee. The men claim to have been coerced into signing the enrollment papers.

"I was present at **David Ross**'s old place when the enrolling agent Major Curry was there in company with a number of emigrants. Simons tried to persuade Charles Jones (who was drunk), to enroll. Jones refused. Then Alexander McGray dragged him to the enrolling agent and Simons held his hand to sign the paper. Jones then complained that he had been abused by being served so. Simons then gave him four lashes with a shores whip. **Ross** moved his whip in a threatening manner but did not strike him."

Test. J.D. Wofford

Witness my hand this 9th day of April, 1834

Gardegi [not sure this is correct name] here X mark

"On the day Major Curry was at **Ross**'s old place I was there drinking. **David Ross** wanted to buy my place and offered $25 for it. I refused. Jas McGrey [not sure if this is correct name] took me aside rather privately and offered the same and wished me to let him have it. I refused him also--Then **Ross** and McGrey endeavored to persuade me to enroll but I refused. This is the last I remember for I went to sleep. Afterward a white man who was present told me that they wakened me up and took me to the agent and tried to make me take hold of the pen to mark but did not do it, but they put my name down. Next day when I recovered from a state of inebriety and was told I enrolled I thought they were in jest. In three or four days I was told that they held me bound as an emigrant and some white people are now claiming my place and threatening to turn me out of doors having bought the good will of James McGrey."

Test. Jesse Bushyhead

Signed this 9th April 1834
Edward Walsh his X mark

Cherokee Nation West

It is not known with certainty when Samuel Lattimore and Akey Walkingstick were married. We do know that they came west together in the Harris detachment. Since Samuel Lattimore's wife, Nancy Starr, had died two months after arrival in July 1834, and the whereabouts of Akey's husband, David Ross, cannot be confirmed, it is likely that they started living together sometime before 1839, when their eldest child, Susan Caroline Lattimore, was born. From the Eastern Cherokee Application of Mary Francis Starr (daughter of George Harlan Starr), we do know that Samuel "located after the emigration west in Sequoyah District."

The information provided in Martin Ross's (grandson of David Ross & Akey Walkingstick Ross) Eastern Cherokee Application is telling because both the "Ross" and "Lattimore" surnames are recorded together in the same document. This makes it clear that Akey had children with both David Ross and Samuel Lattimore.

Martin Ross Eastern Cherokee Applications #8793 & 16702
(He completed 2 applications both dated 1907)

Father: Alexander Ross (Abt. 1836-Abt. 1864)
Mother: Manervia Gafford Ross (Indian name "Takie") (Abt 1840-1871)

Grandparents, Father's Side:
David Ross, Old Settler & Akey Latimore, Old Settler

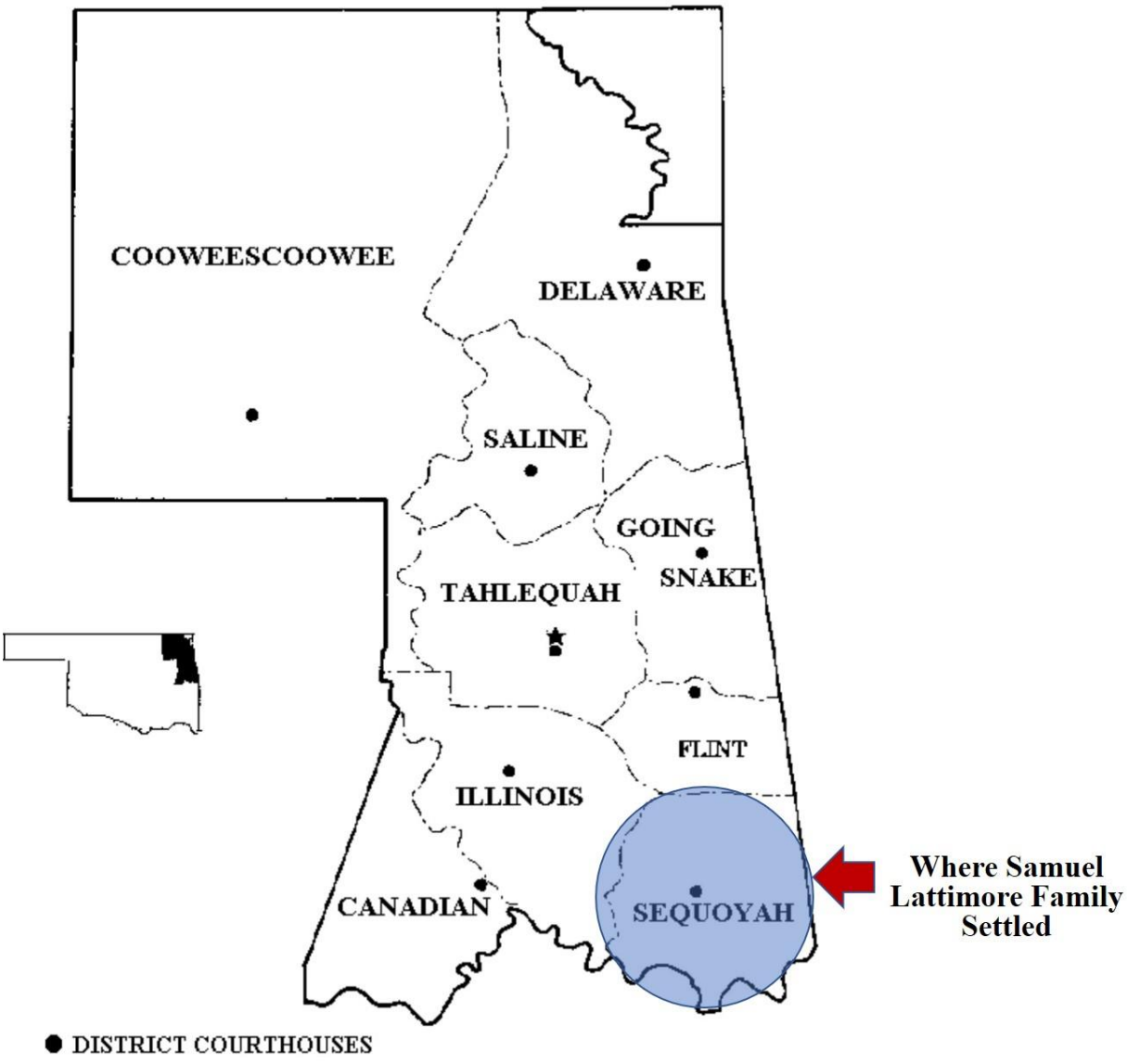
Grandparents, Mother's Side:
Allen Gafford (white man) & Nancy Gafford (nee Foreman; Indian name "Nunce")

Children of Grandparents, Father's Side (last names include both Ross and Lattimore)
Dan Ross, Tom Ross, Elex (Alex) Ross, Tildy (Matilda) Ross, Susan Lattimer and Nancy Latimer – All listed as being dead.

The period following the Trail of Tears was a tumultuous one for the Cherokees and is sometimes referred to as the Cherokee Civil War. In September of 1839, the Cherokee Nation's government was reestablished at Park Hill, near Tahlequah. However, hard feelings remained because of the Treaty Party's signing of the Treaty of New Echota and this resulted in the assassinations of Major Ridge, Elias Boudinot, and John Ridge. Many families, including the Walkingsticks, were torn between the two warring factions: the Ross Party and the Treaty Party.

James Starr, brother of Rachel and Nancy Starr (Samuel Lattimore's first two wives), was also one of the signers of the Treaty of New Echota. In 1845, thirty-two armed men shot both James Starr and his disabled 12-year-old son, Buck. Another son, Tom Starr, vowed revenge for the killings and claimed to have killed all the men in the party who had killed his father and young brother, except for those few who had died before he could get to them. Tom Starr provides another footnote in history; his son, Sam Starr, married Myra Belle Shirley, who later became known as the famous (or infamous) outlaw, Belle Starr.

MAP OF CHEROKEE NATION WEST

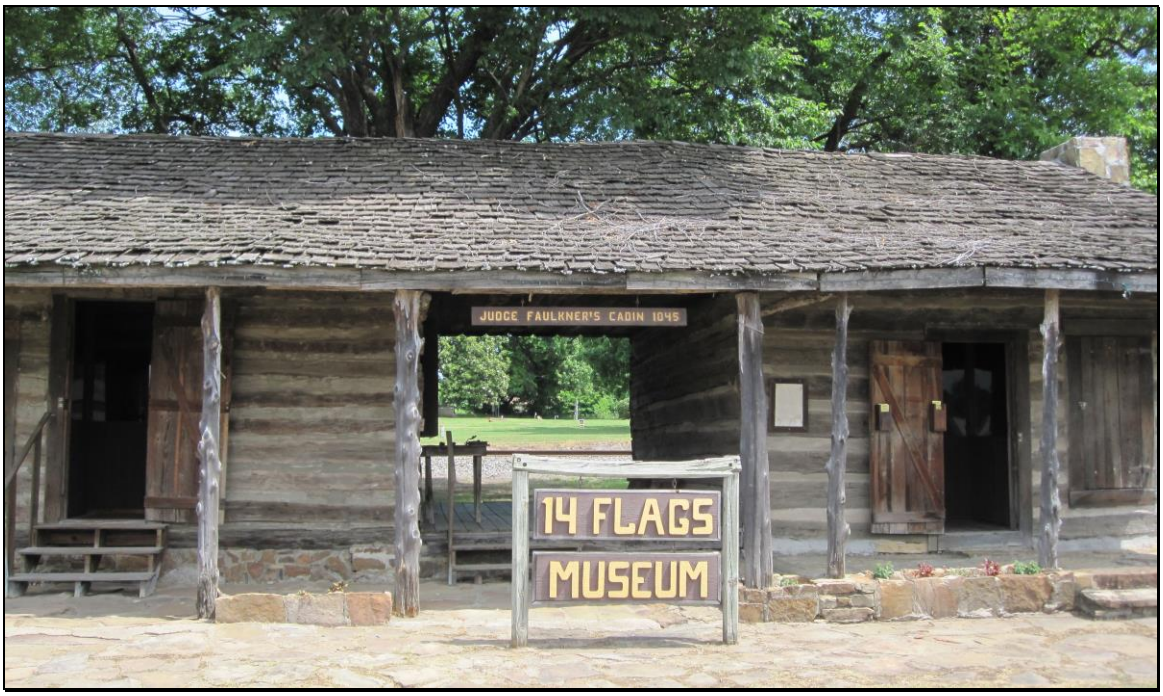


SAMUEL LATTIMORE STAGE STOP | 14 FLAGS MUSEUM

In downtown Sallisaw, there is an outdoor museum located along the railroad tracks. The museum contains three cabins and a train depot. The oldest property is the Lattimore Cabin, or Stage Stop, which was built in 1835 by Samuel Lattimore. The structure is made from hand-cut logs and features a small window should the need arise to fire a weapon. The cabin survived the Civil War years in Oklahoma and at different times was occupied by both Union and Confederate troops. It provides us with an excellent example of the living conditions of Cherokee settlers after they arrived in Indian Territory.

Another cabin on the site was owned by Judge Franklin Faulkner, who was the father of Nancy Faulkner. Nancy married Akey and Samuel Lattimore's son, Samuel. These two Samuels, father and son, often get confused in genealogical records (as is discussed in the next chapter about Nancy Faulkner).

In 2018, I had the opportunity to visit Sallisaw and was able to explore my 3x great grandfather's home. Having researched these ancestors for so many years and then being able to see this structure in person meant the world to me.



Judge Faulkner's Cabin
14 Flags Museum, Sallisaw, Oklahoma
PHOTO CREDIT: Donna Wheelehan, 2018

Donna Wheelehan at Lattimore Stage Stop
PHOTO CREDIT: Ron Wheelehan, 2018

Lattimore Log Cabin
THE LATTIMORE LOG CABIN WAS BUILT BY SAMUEL LATTIMORE AROUND 1835 AFTER HE ARRIVED IN THE AREA DURING THE "TRAIL OF TEARS." IT WAS LOCATED ONE MILE SOUTH OF ROLAND ON OLD HIGHWAY 64.
THE CABIN HAS A LONG AND COLORFUL HISTORY. ORIGINALLY IT WAS A TWO STORY LOG HOUSE AND DURING THE CIVIL WAR, BOTH UNION AND CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS WERE QUARTERED THERE AT DIFFERENT TIMES. IT WAS ALSO USED AS A STAGE STOP FOR MANY YEARS. ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE CABIN THERE IS A NOTCHED HOLE IN ONE OF THE LOGS THAT WAS USED TO FIRE RIFLES TO WARD OFF ENEMIES. THE CABIN WAS MOVED TO THIS LOCATION IN 1989.

PHOTO CREDIT: Donna Wheelehan, 2018

➲HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sallisaw, Sequoyah County

The town name, “Sallisaw,” derives from the French *salaison*, which means “salt meat” or “salt provisions.” English naturalist Thomas Nuttall may have been the first to record the name “Salaiseau” in the journal of his 1819 travels in the area, then part of Arkansas.

The organized settlement now known as Sallisaw can be traced to 1887-88 when Argyle Quesenbury, one of the first white men to settle in the vicinity, and Will Watie Wheeler, descendent of Cherokee Confederate leader Stand Watie, laid out lots for a town one-half mile square. The mostly Cherokee town was not incorporated until 1898 when **William E. Whitsett, Jr.** (Nancy Lattimore Whitsett’s son) was elected mayor.

Sallisaw has the rare distinction, for a relatively small city, of being more widely known for a work of literature than for any fact of its experience. This was John Steinbeck's renowned 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, which told the Depression-era Dust Bowl migration of the fictional Joad family from Sallisaw to California. Hilly Sallisaw, well east of Oklahoma's semi-arid plains, did not experience the Dust Bowl. That among other inaccuracies, and the perceived shiftlessness of some “Okie” characters in the novel, continued to irk several Sallisaw residents throughout the century.

From the same era, Sallisaw is known for a real-life character who became the stuff of legend and literature: the gangster Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, who spent his early years around nearby Hanson in the 1910’s and is buried in Akins, eight miles northeast. An estimated twenty thousand to forty thousand people attended the outlaw's funeral in Sallisaw on October 28, 1934. His brother, E. W., was Sequoyah County sheriff from 1948 until his death in 1970.

SOURCE: “Sallisaw.” Oklahoma Historical Society’s Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture. https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=SA009

The Confusion with Nancy Faulkner

Many family trees and histories that I have found have stated that after his marriages to Rachel and Nancy Starr, Samuel Lattimore married Nancy Faulkner soon after he arrived in the west, when he actually had married Akey Walkingstick Ross. Sources for this belief are Esther Lattimore Jenkins, *The Lattimores: A Family History,* Charles Elliott's *Descendants of John Lattimore, Sr.* website, and Loyd Lattimore's entry in the *History of Sequoyah County* (see page 41).

After reviewing numerous documents and family trees, I have come to the conclusion that the elder Samuel Lattimore is being confused with his son, Samuel Lattimore. The key piece of evidence that validates my theory is that Nancy Faulkner's birth date is recorded as being 1851, which would have made her 9 years old when the elder Samuel Lattimore died. Samuel Lattimore's oldest child born in Indian Territory was Susan Caroline Lattimore (Nancy Lattimore Whitsett's -- my great, great grandmother -- sister). Susan was buried in Shiloh Cemetery in Sallisaw. On her tombstone are the following dates: Born July 6, 1839 and Died December 31, 1903. In addition, in Susan Lattimore Foreman's Dawes Packet #1188, she listed her parents as Akey and Samuel Lattimore.

Samuel and Akey Lattimore had five children who I have been able to find:
Susan Caroline Lattimore (1839-1903)
Nancy Jane Lattimore (1841-1887)
Samuel (Abt. 1845 – 1883)
Ezekiel (Abt. 1847 – Bet. 1869-1871)
Jemima (dates unknown)

Their son Samuel is often seen as Samuel Lattimore, Sr. on family trees. This is the Samuel who married Nancy Faulkner. They had 6 children together and their youngest was named Samuel Lattimore, Jr. He was born in March 1882 (according to the 1900 Census) or March 18, 1883 (according to the Akins cemetery records); his father, Samuel, Sr., died in 1883. Nancy Faulkner Lattimore went on to marry B. Cornelius and they had a daughter Iola, born in 1888. On the 1920 Census, she was listed as being 68 years old, widowed, and living with her son, Samuel, Jr., in Hanson, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma. She died August 10, 1924 and was buried in Akins Cemetery.

The following biographical sketch published in *The History of Sequoyah County* was written by Loyd Lattimore (1906-1980), son of Samuel and Emma (Kinsey) Lattimore, Jr., grandson of Samuel and Nancy (Faulkner) Lattimore, Sr., great grandson of Samuel and Akey (Walkingstick) Lattimore. Much of the information about Loyd's parents and siblings is correct, but I believe he is off by a generation when it comes to the elder Samuel Lattimore being the husband of Nancy (Faulkner) Lattimore.

LATTIMORE, SAMUEL AND NANCY

by Loyd Lattimore

From: *The History of Sequoyah County, 1828-1975.* Sequoyah County Historical Society, 1976.

The history of the Lattimore family in Sequoyah County began when two brothers, Samuel and Ezekiel Lattimore, and their cousin Kie Coleman came to Indian Territory in 1838, from Rome, Georgia over the Trail of Tears. Samuel was born in 1816.

Not long after arriving in Indian Territory, Ezekiel and a friend of his were killed near Moffett. Kie Coleman upon hearing the news went to Moffett and killed the killer of Ezekiel and his friend. Ezekiel was the first person to be buried in the "Old Lattimore Cemetery". Later Negroes began burying there and today it is known as the Shady Grove Cemetery.

Samuel cleared land south of Roland and built a two-story log house on what is now old highway sixty-four. This two-story log house was used as an overnight stopping place for both Confederate and Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Samuel married Rachel Starr from Tahlequah and when she died he married her sister, Nannie Starr, who also died. After this Samuel traded his allotment near Roland for an allotment in the Miller Ridge Community.

Later Samuel married Nancy (Nan) Faulkner, the daughter of Judge Franklin Faulkner and Nancy (Petit) Faulkner. She was born in 1851. Nan's mother, Nancy (Petit) Faulkner, was a full blood Cherokee. Judge Franklin Faulkner was a white man but he took a very active part in Cherokee Tribal Affairs. He served as Judge of Sequoyah District of the Cherokee Nation for several years.

Mary Lattimore Bradley, daughter of Samuel and Nancy Lattimore

Samuel was more than twice the age of Nancy. They had five children: Ezekiel; Calvin (Cab); Nancy; Mary; and Samuel II. Samuel I died in 1883, two months after his youngest child, Samuel II, was born. He is buried in a family plot north of the Lattimore home place in the Miller Ridge Community.

After Samuel's death Nancy and her children moved to Hanson. There she took in school children as boarders who had come to Hanson to attend the Cherokee National School.

Samuel and Nancy's children married as follows: Ezekiel married Ella Harrell and they had two children, Maze and Myna. They lived in the Tulsa area; Calvin (Cab) married Cindy White and they had two children: "Little Zeke" and Agnes. Cab lost his leg when he was a young boy trying to hitch a ride on a train. He was the mail carrier from Sweet Town (Akins) to Verona (Nicut) for many years; Nancy III married Sam Calvert and after his death she married Joe Martin; Mary married Dave Bradley and they had one daughter, Cherry. They lived in the Nicut Community; Samuel II married Emma Kinsey and they had five children; Loyd, R. B. (Dobe), Perry, Vennie and Mary. They lived in the Miller Ridge Community.

Later Nancy married a Mr. Cornelius and had one daughter, Lola, who married Charles Walker. Nancy, known to all by "Granny Nan", also helped raise Mame and Lydia Gann. She died in 1924, and is buried in the Akins Cemetery.

What Happened to Samuel Lattimore?

Multiple documents list Samuel's death date as October 15, 1860. As of yet, I have not been able to find the source for this information. This date would have made him 58 at the time of his death. His wife, Akey Walkingstick, was listed on the Old Settler Rolls of 1851, but on the 1896 Old Settler Payroll, she was listed as being deceased under the name of "Archy Lattimore" in Group SB (Skin Bayou) 143. This means she died sometime between 1851-1896.

1896 1851

PAGE	GROUP		NAMES	REL.	AGE	SEX	RESIDENCE	OTHER INFORMATION
201	SB143		ARCHY LATTIMORE, dead					
		a.	Ezekiel Lattimore	gson	25	m	Hanson	
		b.	Nannie Martin	gdau	23	f	Vian	
	A.	c.	Calvin Lattimore	gson	16	m	Hanson	Nancy Cornelius, gdn.
		d.	Mary Lattimore	gdau	14	f	Hanson	Nancy Cornelius, gdn.
		e.	Samuel Lattimore	gson	11	m	Hanson	Nancy Cornelius, gdn.
		a.	Flora Ross	gdau	34	f	Vian	
		b.	W. E. Whitsett	gson	24	m	Salisaw	
	B.	c.	J. H. Whitsett	gson	21	m	Salisaw	
		d.	Mary Aiken	gdau	18	f	Salisaw	
		e.	Charles B. Whitsett	gson	14	m	Salisaw	William E. Whitsett, gdn.
		f.	Foreman Whitsett	gson	12	m	Salisaw	William E. Whitsett, gdn.
	C.	a.	Martin Ross	gson	40	m	Vian	
		b.	Esther Hall	gdau	39	f	McKey	
	D.		Susan Foreman	dau	53	f	Salisaw	
	E.	a.	James Colby	gson	31	m	Salisaw	
		b.	Stella Barnes	gdau	16	f	Salisaw	see affidavit as to correct age

SOURCE: *Cherokee Old Settlers Rolls* transcribed by David Keith Hampton (Broken Arrow, OK: D.K. Hampton, 1993)

I have not been able to find the gravesite of Samuel Lattimore. In addition, the graves for other family members who emigrated to the west in 1834 have not been found: David Ross, Akey Walkingstick, and others.

➲HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Early Cemetery Records

Many early Oklahoma funeral homes started out as furniture companies that sold caskets. When someone died, the family would go to the furniture store, buy a casket and bury the person themselves.

Oklahoma law did not require a death record be recorded until October 1908 when statewide registration was established BUT the law was not generally complied with until the 1930s.

In the early days of Oklahoma when a funeral home was sold, the former owner, for whatever reason, usually took the records. Most of these early records were destroyed, but a few remain in the hands of other funeral homes, genealogical societies, and family members.

SOURCE: Funeral Homes of Oklahoma, OKGENWEB
http://www.okgenweb.org/funeral/index.htm

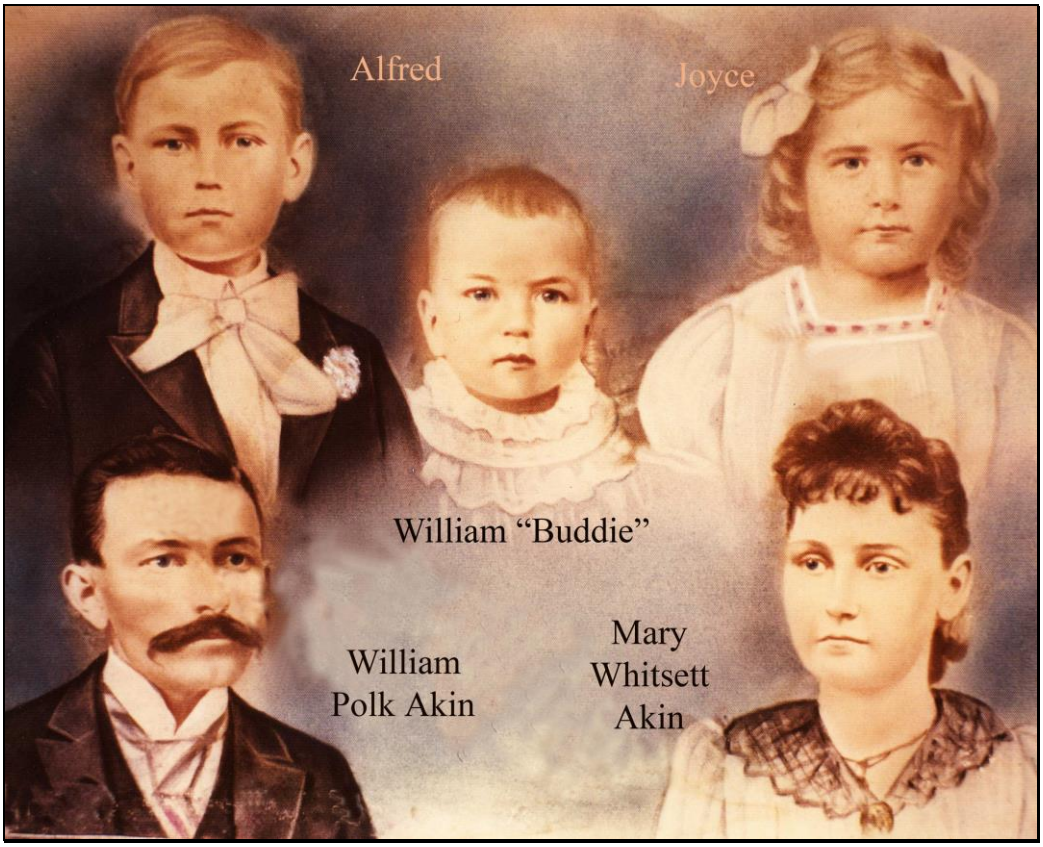
THE NEXT GENERATIONS OF THE LATTIMORE FAMILY

The Next Generations

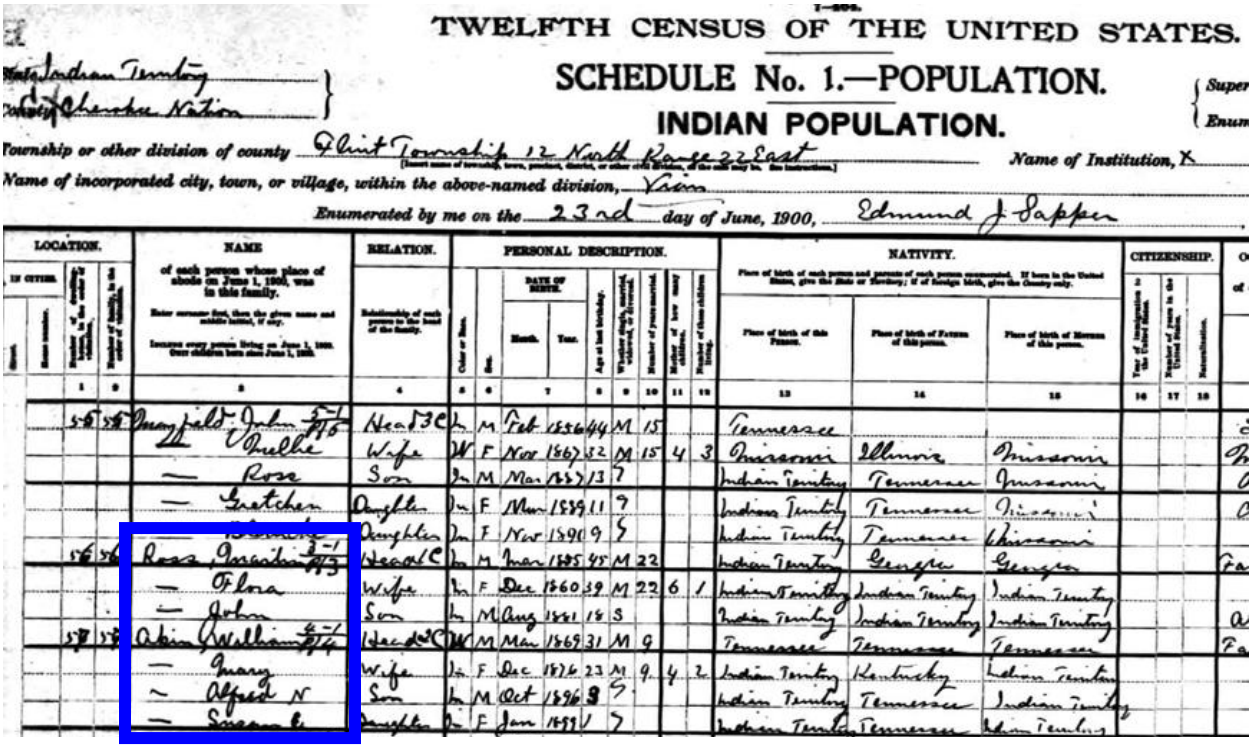
Nancy Lattimore, daughter of Samuel and Akey, was married two times that I know of. Her first husband was a full-blood Cherokee named Samuel Blackburn. He was reported to have died during the Civil War. They had a daughter named Flora, who is seen in various genealogical documents as Flora Blackburn, Flora Whitsett, and Flora Ross (her married name). On the 1900 Census of the Indian Population, Flora and her husband, Martin, and son, John, were listed as living near the William Polk Akin family.

Nancy then married William E. Whitsett and they had six children (one who died in infancy): William, Jr., Joseph, Mary (my great-grandmother), Charles Bell, and William Foreman. William Whitsett was born in Kentucky and moved to Bonham, Texas, where he worked in a general store. In 1860 he became a Texas Ranger and then joined the Confederacy during the Civil War. At the Battle of Chickamauga, he received a wound in his left knee, which disabled him temporarily. After the war, he spent some time in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and later settled across the river in Cherokee Nation. He became a very successful business man in Sallisaw where he opened the first General Store. Once he married Nancy Lattimore, he was adopted as a citizen of Cherokee Nation. After Nancy's death in 1887, he married Martha "Fannie" Harrison (a white woman) and they had five children. He lived in Sallisaw until his death in 1901. Both he and his first wife, Nancy Lattimore, were buried in Shiloh Cemetery in Sallisaw.

Mary Whitsett was born on December 9, 1876, the only daughter of William and Nancy Whitsett. She was 10 years old when her mother Nancy died on August 23, 1887. According to her daughter, Joyce Akin Basinger, Mary went to live with her Uncle Joseph "Hade" Whitsett in Bonham, Texas, after her mother died. While living there, she met William Polk Akin, a native of Carters Creek, near Columbia, Tennessee. They married twice: first in 1891 in Bonham and then in Cherokee Nation in September of 1894. Mary had encouraged her husband to move to Cherokee Nation to be close to her family. He and Mary had nine children, three of whom survived until adulthood – Alfred (my grandfather), Joyce, and William. William was a successful businessman and owned the Arkoma Feed Store in Sallisaw. For many years, he was active in Sallisaw civic affairs, serving on the City Council and the Sallisaw school board. Mary died in 1909, soon after giving birth to her last child, and was buried in Shiloh Cemetery. William married Della Speir in 1910 and they had two daughters, Lois and Lela. He died on February 25, 1932, and was buried in the Sallisaw City Cemetery.



WILLIAM POLK AKIN FAMILY



TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

INDIAN POPULATION.

Township or other division of county Flint Township 12 North Range 22 East

Name of Institution, X

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Vian

Enumerated by me on the 23rd day of June, 1900, Edmund J Sapper

LOCATION.	NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.								NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.		
			Color or Race	Sex	Month of Birth	Year of Birth	Age at last birthday	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years married	Mother of how many children	Place of Birth of this Person	Place of Birth of Father of this person	Place of Birth of Mother of this person	Year of immigration to the United States	Number of years in the United States	Naturalization
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
55 55	Mayfield John [illegible]	Head	In	M	Feb	1856	44	M	15		Tennessee					
	Phelbe	Wife	W	F	Nov	1867	32	M	15	4	3 Missouri	Illinois	Missouri			
	Rose	Son	In	M	Mar	1887	13				Indian Territory	Tennessee	Missouri			
	Gretchen	Daughter	In	F	Mar	1889	11				Indian Territory	Tennessee	Missouri			
	[illegible]	Daughter	In	F	Nov	1890	9				Indian Territory	Tennessee	Missouri			
56 56	Ross Martin [illegible]	Head	In	M	Mar	1835	65	M	22		Indian Territory	Georgia	Georgia			
	Flora	Wife	In	F	Dec	1860	39	M	22	6	1 Indian Territory	Indian Territory	Indian Territory			
	John	Son	In	M	Aug	1881	18	S			Indian Territory	Indian Territory	Indian Territory			
57 57	Akin William [illegible]	Head	W	M	Mar	1869	31	M	9		Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee			
	Mary	Wife	In	F	Dec	1876	23	M	9	4	2 Indian Territory	Kentucky	Indian Territory			
	Alfred N	Son	In	M	Oct	1896	3	S			Indian Territory	Tennessee	Indian Territory			
	Susan E	Daughter	In	F	Jan	1899	1				Indian Territory	Tennessee	Indian Territory			

1900 CENSUS OF INDIAN POPULATION, Vian, Indian Territory. In the blue box are two families: Martin & Flora Ross and their son, John / William & Mary Akin, their son, Alfred, and daughter, Susan Flora Ross and Mary Akin were half-sisters, Nancy Lattimore Whitsett was their mother

CELIA AND ALFRED AKIN

Alfred Nicholson Akin (also have seen middle name as Nichols)
There are many conflicting birthdates for Alfred, also known as "Nick." His Cherokee birth certificate listed it as October 16, 1896, but on his WWI registration the year 1895 was given, and on his death certificate and in some of his personal papers from Seattle, his birth year was shown as 1897. To make things even more confusing, he listed his age on the birth certificates of his children to make it look as if he was older than his wife. Celia was born in 1894 and was actually older than him. The chart below shows the mercurial nature of his age.

Son	Birth Date	Alfred's Age	Celia's Age
William Peter	August 18, 1922	34	28
Don & David	May 25, 1926	36	32
Earl Vernon	November 9, 1927	34	33

One record I found recently though has solved this mystery. On the 1896 Cherokee Census, Alfred's age was noted as being "11 days old." This would indicate that his year of birth was 1896 as stated on his Cherokee birth certificate.

Alfred and Celia married in 1921 and had four sons: William Peter, Donald Lee & David Cecil (twins, David died at 9 days old), and my father, Earl Vernon. Alfred abandoned the family in 1927 (before Earl was born). He moved up to Seattle, where he worked as a cook and on ships, including one that traveled to Alaska. He died on March 1, 1951, in Seattle, Washington.

Joyce West Basinger b. March 1, 1903; d. July 23, 1979
Husband: Charles Alison Basinger b. June 7, 1893. d. July 14, 1955
Buried with her husband in Fort Gibson National Cemetery, Oklahoma
Joyce was married to Charles for 24 years and they had no children. She worked in a variety of jobs, including with the Employment Service and as a substitute teacher. It was through her that our family learned more about our Cherokee heritage.

William Franklin (Bud) Akin b. October 19, 1905, d. June 20, 1980
Wife: Garland Zimmerman b. June 15, 1911, d. January 31, 2006
Bud lived in Haskell, Oklahoma, where he met Garland Zimmerman. They married in 1929 and had eight children. In 1938, they moved to Disney, Oklahoma, where he worked on the construction of the Grand River Dam (Pensacola Dam). Bud and Garland were buried in Spavinaw-Sprang Cemetery.

Lois Louise Akin Phillips b. April 28, 1911, d. June 7, 1998
Husband: Henry Phillips b. March 2, 1908, d. February 25,1980
Buried Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, Houston, Texas
Had 4 children (one died in infancy)
Lois's husband, Henry, was a paleontologist. In 1976, Lois wrote a letter with information about her parents and brothers and sisters. This letter has been a valuable resource for my genealogy work.

Lela Gene Akin Brower b. August 5, 1918, d. April, 29, 1958
Husband: Fountain C. Brower died in 1977 in Washington
Had 2 children
Celia Malvini received a letter from Lela in 1949. Lela and her family were living in King City, California, and invited Celia to come for a visit. Lela also wrote that the family would be moving to Santa Paula soon because her husband was hired to run the *Santa Paula News* newspaper. The family later moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, where Lela died at the age of 39 from tuberculosis. She had been in ill health for several years with multiple sclerosis and was buried next to her parents in Sallisaw City Cemetery. Her husband moved to Washington state, where he died in 1977.

CONCLUSION

Working on this history of my family from the Lattimore perspective has helped me to understand and appreciate the courage of my ancestors; from the boys who left Ireland to come to the new colonies to my great-great-great grandfather, Samuel Lattimore, who faced extreme hardships to bring his family to Indian Territory before the forced removal on the Trail of Tears. There, in Indian Territory, he and Akey Walkingstick began the family that counts me as one of its descendants. As much as I enjoy searching for documents and other sources of information on my family, it seems that for every question I find an answer to, I also find more questions. There is such a longing to be able to go back and talk to some of these people, but sadly, most of them are long gone. The old saying, "The more you know, the more you know you don't know" is especially true in the world of genealogy.

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SOURCES

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